Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-063
Tuesday
2 April 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-063 2 April 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Expresses 'Deep Regret' Over Financial Freeze *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Court Sentences Salah Khalaf Killer to Death *[MENA]* 1
PLO Approves Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 29 Mar]* 1
Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No. 69 *[Algiers VOP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hijackers Hold Passengers at Algiers Airport *[Paris Radio]* 4
Hijackers Demand Broadcast of Statement *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Hijacker Surrenders in 'Happy Ending' *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Hamas Movement Presents Political Program *[APS]* 4

Egypt

SANA Reports Al-Asad-Mubarak News Conference 5
Information Minister Cited on Cairo Summit *[Damascus Radio]* 5
'Abd-al-Majid Denies Receiving Invitation to Iran *[IRNA]* 6
Gaza Palestinian Lawyer Urges 'Coordination' *[MENA]* 6
Government To Begin Utilizing IMF Loan in July *[MENA]* 6
UN To Sponsor Environmental Protection Center *[MENA]* 7

Libya

Possible Bahrain-U.S. Military Accord Viewed *[JANA]* 7
JANA Denies Interference in Ethiopian Affairs 7
Chad Granted 3 Million Dollars in Financial Aid *[JANA]* 7

IRAQ

Saddam Chairs New Cabinet's First Meeting *[INA]* 8
INA Reports Saddam Address 8
Information Minister Views Session *[INA]* 8
Saddam Receives Ibrahim To Discuss Northern Tour *[INA]* 8
UN Representative Complains About U.S. Activities 8
Submits Second Memo on Air Violations *[INA]* 8
Charges Desecration of Archaeological Sites *[INA]* 9
Interior, Health Ministers Inspect Dahuk, Karbala' *[INA]* 9
Trade Minister on Food Supply to Kurdistan Region *[INA]* 9
Flour Supplies Dispatched to North *[INA]* 10
Rebels Report 'Acute' Shortage of Supplies *[SANA]* 10
Kurdish Official Cited on Karkuk Battle *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 10
Kurds Capture 2,000 Soldiers *[IRNA]* 10
Opposition Radio Reports Clashes Near Al-Kut *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 10
Brigade Destroyed *[Tehran Radio]* 10
Kurds Concede Irbil Lost, Deny Dahuk Retaken *[AFP]* 11
Baghdad Television Carries Scenes of Irbil *[INA]* 11
Baghdad Prison Raid, Rebel-Controlled Towns Cited *[IRNA]* 11
Opposition Attacks Al-Basrah Command Center *[Damascus Radio]* 12
Opposition Forces Claim 'Full Control' of Karbala' *[SANA]* 12

National Concord Opposition Party Appeals for Aid *[Voice of Free Iraq]* 12
Dailies Discuss, Comment on Country-Wide Situation 13
AL-QADISIYAH on Coming Reconstruction *[INA]* 13
AL-QADISIYAH on 'Unity' of Armed Forces *[INA]* 13
AL-THAWRAH on 'Purging' of Kurdistan *[INA]* 14
AL-THAWRAH on Postwar Job Duties 14
AL-JUMHURIYAH on Cease-Fire Resolution *[INA]* 15
AL-'IRAQ on Relations With Neighbors *[INA]* 15
Papers View New Government Policy Statement *[INA]* 16
Baghdad Radio Sees Iranian Hand in 'Sabotage' 16
Gulf War Experience in Democratic Process Viewed *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Foreign Media Delegations Arrive in Baghdad *[INA]* 17
University Classes To Resume 20 April *[INA]* 17

ISRAEL

Ministerial Committee Issues New Defense Steps *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
New Security Steps 'Reasonable' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 18
Shamir: U.S. Issues 'Hasty Reaction' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Unnamed Officials Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Health Minister on Differences With U.S. *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 19
Shamir Sees Changes if State of War Ends *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Jerusalem 'Very Skeptical' About Syrian Attitude *[DAVAR 2 Apr]* 20
Sinyurah on Political Initiatives in Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 20
Barriers on Most Imports To Be Lifted 1 Sep *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Apr]* 21
Government Plan Backs Investment in Territories *[HADASHOT 1 Apr]* 21
IDF Not Leaving Camps; Other Steps Noted *[HA'ARETZ 29 Mar]* 22
Further Incidents in Territories Reported 22
One Killed, Four Injured, Curfews *[HA'ARETZ 1 Apr]* 22
Two Arabs Killed for Collaboration *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Data on Israeli, Palestinian Intifadah Fatalities *[HA'ARETZ 2 Apr]* 23

JORDAN

GCC Aid Halt Shows Gulf Admiration for Israel *[AL-RA'Y 1 Apr]* 24
France Urged To Play 'Effective' Mideast Role *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 30 Mar]* 24
Minister's Segregation of Sexes Criticized *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Apr]* 25

LEBANON

Iranian Envoy on Hostages, Israeli Withdrawal *[VOM]* 26
Others Cited on Hostage Release *[VOM]* 26
Buwayz on Military Ties With Palestinians *[Beirut Radio]* 26
Palestinians Must Give Up Weapons *[RFL]* 26
PLO Official Reacts *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 27
Fadlallah Cited on Current Developments *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 27
Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid Reportedly To Visit *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 27

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Khaddam Return From Cairo Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Commentary on Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Press on Outcome of Summit *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Further Press Comment *[Damascus Radio]* 29
Arab League Talks 'Positive Step' Toward Unity *[Damascus Radio]* 30

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech Addresses Khowst Events *[Kabul Radio]* 31
Rebels Claim 1,000 Casualties in Khowst Fighting *[AFP]* 32
Say Scuds Kill 10 *[AFP]* 33

AFP on Government Weapons Left Behind in Khowst 33
Khaliqyar Chairs Council of Ministers Session *[Kabul Radio]* 33

Bangladesh

New Council Meets, Reviews Essential Commodities *[Dhaka Radio]* 34
Natural Gas Reserves To Last Until 2026 *[AFP]* 34

India

Meeting With Pakistani Military Officials Begins *[Islamabad Radio]* 35
Ambassador Oakley's Remarks On Kashmir Criticized *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 25 Mar]* 35
Documents Allege Assam 'Militants'-LTTE Link *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Suspected Muslim Rebels Abduct Swedes in Kashmir *[AFP]* 35
V.P. Singh Rules Out Merger With Janata Dal-S *[Delhi Radio]* 36
West Bengal Assembly Dissolved for Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Kerala Cabinet Recommends Dissolution of Assembly *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Election Commission Cautions Against Propaganda *[Delhi Radio]* 36
BJP Head Says Shrine Not Main Election Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Curfew Imposed in Gujarat After Clashes *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Three Police Injured in East Delhi Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Kashmiri Leader Demands Probe of Security Forces *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Impounded Fishing Boats, Crew Members Exchanged *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Announcement of Project To Produce Carbon Fiber *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Provisional Results Of 1991 Census Analyzed *[Delhi International]* 37

Iran

Iraqi Envoy Summoned To Receive Incursion Protest *[IRNA]* 38
Judiciary Reports Release of UK's Cooper *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Official Departs To Reopen Riyadh Embassy *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Reopening Announced *[Tehran International]* 38
Commentary on U.S. 'Green Light' to Baghdad *[IRNA]* 38
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Military Presence *[Tehran Radio]* 39
U.S. Criticized at Republic Day Celebrations *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Daily Warns of 'Indifference' Toward Enemies *[IRNA]* 40
Mojahedin-e Khalq Accuses Army of Attack in Iraq *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 40
SAIRI Appeals for Help Against Saddam *[IRNA]* 40
Kurdish Refugees Said To Report Chemical Raids *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Ayatollah Golpayegani Condemns Treatment of Kho'i *[IRNA]* 41
110,000 To Embark on Mecca Pilgrimage *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Negotiations Over Kuwaiti Planes Said Under Way *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* 41

Pakistan

UN Urged To Help Stop Kabul Attacks on Khowst *[Islamabad International]* 42
President, Prime Minister Greet Iranian President *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Iranian Envoy Reaffirms Support for Kashmiris *[Islamabad International]* 42
Official Hosts Dinner for Outgoing PRC Envoy *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Eight Religious Parties Form 'Common Forum' *[THE MUSLIM 31 Mar]* 42
Talks Between Ruling Party, Bhutto's PDA Held *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Zardari Denied Permission To Attend House Session *[THE MUSLIM 1 Apr]* 43
Denationalization of 45 Industries Recommended *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Parliamentary Delegation Completes Visit to Poland *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Sri Lanka

14 Killed in East, Curfew Imposed in North *[AFP]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Expresses 'Deep Regret' Over Financial Freeze

LD0104171791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO has expressed its deep regret over the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] decision to freeze its financial assistance to Jordan and the PLO. A spokesman for the organization said the statements by Abdullah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, in which he announced the decision to freeze the assistance, were aimed at weakening the morale of the Palestinian masses who are resisting the occupation and Israeli crimes and looking forward to further backing from the Arab brothers. The spokesman expressed the hope that all sides will rise to the level of Arab fraternity.

Court Sentences Salah Khalaf Killer to Death

NC3003201991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Mar (MENA)—A Palestinian military court in session in Sanaa Wednesday sentenced Hani Muhammad al-Hasan to death. He is the Palestinian guard accused of killing Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad; Hayil-'Abd-al-Hamid, alias Abu-al-Hawl; and other Palestinian leaders in Tunisia on 16 January.

The court sentenced the accused, who belongs to the group of Abu-Nidal, alias Sabri al-Banna, to death by firing squad. The court session was chaired by Abu-al-Hakam, alias Mahmud al-Ruwaysan, head of Palestinian military judicial authorities, and held in one of the halls of the Sabra camp in the Sanaa suburbs.

The accused man arrived in Sanaa in early February with his escorts aboard a private plane, after the Tunisian authorities refused to have the trial held there.

Informed Palestinian sources say that the Yemeni authorities have asked Palestinian officials in Sanaa not to carry out the sentence in their country, and that the Yemeni leadership will discuss the matter with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

According to the Palestinian sources, the accused penetrated the ranks of the Fatah movement two years ago claiming that he was a dissident from the Abu-Nidal group. The accused, who was employed as a guard at the Fatah command with the rank of major, waited for the appropriate opportunity to assassinate Abu-Iyad in order to settle a personal dispute with Abu-Nidal about handing over Abu-Bakr 'Atif, one of the real dissidents of the Abu-Nidal movement, who sought protection with Abu-Iyad.

PLO Approves Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation

NC0204103291 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Mar 91 pp 1, 9

[By Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Excerpt] U.S. and Palestinian sources have said that the PLO informed the United States and Jordan that it agrees to revive an amended formula of the "Amman agreement" regarding the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel, provided that the formula is based on the principle of equality and coordination.

The sources added that the PLO is ready to authorize Palestinians from the occupied territories to represent it in negotiations with the Israelis and Americans concerning launching confidence-building measures. However, the sources stressed that the PLO is not ready to abrogate its leading role, as Washington, Israel, and some Arab states demand.

The sources told AL-SAFIR that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, English Literature professor at Bi'r Zayt University, who is viewed as a key political figure in the occupied territories conveyed these positions to officials she met in Washington during the past few days. 'Ashrawi met with Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. State Department; some of his aides; Richard Haas, special assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; and his aides.

The sources said that 'Ashrawi's meetings, which were held with the approval of the PLO were marked by frankness. They added that the meetings provided answers to some questions that remained unanswered during the meetings U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held with a Palestinian delegation in occupied Jerusalem. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi was a member of this delegation.

Members of this Palestinian delegation said: "Washington does not want the Palestinians of the occupied territories to speak about the PLO. But, everybody knows that there can be no credible negotiations without a leading PLO role."

The sources said that reviving an amended formula of the Amman agreement as a means to bypass "the obstacle of the Palestinian representation" as Washington says, was raised during the meetings. Palestinian-Jordanian meetings have been recently held in this regard. AL-SAFIR earlier said that Jordan informed Washington recently of its willingness to revive this formula.

However, there is Palestinian concern about the U.S. conception of Palestinian representation in any joint delegation that might take part in negotiations "under a Jordanian umbrella," or even under the umbrella of a joint Arab delegation. Hence, the PLO is attempting to obtain guarantees that it will be treated on an equal footing with the other parties. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No. 69

LD0204100291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Call No. 69 issued by the Intifadah United National Leadership; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No voice rises above the Intifadah, voice of the PLO.

Call, call, call: call of the land and the prisoner; call no. 69 issued by the United National Leadership of the Intifadah.

O masses of the brave Intifadah, the heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people confronted with the imperialist-Atlantic aggression has scored many achievements following a huge series of sacrifices paid by the Iraqi people with their flesh and blood. These achievements are reflected in our national cause, which has reached new heights thanks to these achievements, as the truth about the imperialist attitude, which relies on double standards in dealing with regional issues and all world problems, has become glaringly clear.

This is in addition to the achievement of Iraqi steadfastness in defeating the Zionist security theory, which is based on regarding the Palestinian West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon as security shields for the State of Israel, through its strikes deep into Israel. Today, imperialism and Israel are striving to overcome this Iraqi achievement by the further development of Israel's military capability, in order to keep it the sole superior strategic force in the Middle East. In addition, it is attempting to normalize relations with the Arab states that are members of the coalition as a preliminary step toward strengthening its economy in order to guarantee its security at the expense of the security and interests of the people of the region.

Added to the vigorous attempts to shake Iraq's steadfastness by humiliating it and by imposing capitulationist conditions on it are Washington's efforts through the Security Council to get the council to issue a new resolution achieving this. Meanwhile, aerial sorties over all the Iraqi territories, the occupation of the southern part of the country, and the activation and backing of the opposition movement against the regime continue. At a time when Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had announced measures to widen democracy, the opposition forces should enlist in the defense of the territorial integrity of Iraq and in its reconstruction. We call on the Arab world to contribute to this.

At a time when the Security Council is witnessing feverish activity aimed at making it issue a resolution that humiliates Iraq, we find that the same council had found it sufficient to express regret at Israel's expulsion of four Palestinian strugglers without taking any practical measure to prevent this policy. This clearly exposes the nature of the new international order that Washington wants to establish firmly and lead as an order hostile to the people and their legitimate national rights.

It also is evidence of the nature of the regional system of the Arab area. Washington is trying to make it work at the expense of Iraq and the Palestinian issue and every free, patriotic and upright person in this area. While we value the recent French stances on our national issue, and the statements by Douglas Hurd on Britain's conviction that the PLO has not lost its status as a representative of the Palestinian people, we call on those who made these statements to develop their stances toward upholding the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people.

Masses of our heroic people, the uprising is our option and the basis of all our political achievements. It will remain our guarantee for seizing our right to return and to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—and our continuing confrontation of the enemy's repressive measures during and after the war to impose the siege, the continuation of the curfew policy, the division of the state of palestine into out-of-bounds areas, and the policy of starving the people, plundering and imposing taxes on our brave merchants, trying to restore the domination of occupation and its machinery, raiding the rural areas of Palestine, expanding the policy of detention and imposing fines and other things; also reviving the scheme of creating a substitute for the PLO by cooperating with U.S. imperialism and some of its agents in the area.

In this respect the united national leadership values the steadfastness of the masses of our people in the face of the frenzied onslaught which seeks to harm their determination. It calls on them to strengthen their popular and national unity in all the positions, villages, camps, and quarters. They should develop their militant creativity by all ways and means and by raising their standards to consolidate our popular authority on our own soil and foil all the U.S. imperialist and Zionist attempts to suppress our inalienable national rights.

We appeal to and also warn all public figures that have left the national consensus and allowed themselves to attend the farewell ceremony for (General Mordekhay Washinsky) Wachinky (phon.), the most prominent executioner of our people, and their self-seeking at the expense of the people, their struggles and sacrifices. [sentence as heard]

During the holy month of Ramadan, the month of patience and jihad, the United National Leadership calls for respect of the holiness of this month and its sanctities, for consolidation of the ties of social and economic solidarity and cooperation, and for sharing food. It also urges all the quarters' committees to ensure the needs of all families suffering from the starvation-seeking policies

of the enemy, and to set up funds for social solidarity and assistance. It stresses that restaurants continue to be open in the afternoon hours as usual in accordance with last year's national decision.

The United National Leadership extends Easter greetings to the Christians among our people, for both the Eastern and Western sects.

The national leadership invites:

1. Brothers in the Hamas movement and all struggling Islamic forces to show solidarity in the framework of the people's national unity, and to struggle to give no opportunity to the enemy and its attempts to play on the unity and cohesiveness of the people behind their struggling national leadership.

2. The striking units and the broad masses to invigorate evening struggles in all quarters of towns, camps, and villages, and to form local plans to carry out and expand the scope of these struggles. We also invite the striking units to hunt thieves and strike against them with iron fists.

3. In order to withstand attempts to secure economic starvation and mass firing of our workers from Zionist plants, we call upon all our national plants to stop firing people and closing down, and to strive to absorb those fired. We urge local workers' committees to follow up the necessary measures with plant owners. We also urge our workers to return to the land and form farming cooperatives and reclaim land as a response to the measures of the enemy that is fighting us for our break to impair the will to resist, and to prompt us to leave the land and the homeland, thus paving the way for the realization of its settlement program to absorb the new settlers coming from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and elsewhere.

4. In order to face up to the ignorance-seeking policy the United National Leadership urges our students to fully observe the school hours and maintain this in all circumstances. It calls on university students and lecturers to work to carry out collective protest activities aimed at the opening of universities.

5. The United National Leadership calls on the brave masses of the uprising to carry out the following struggle activities:

—Reaffirm the need to boycott Israeli goods which have national alternative products particularly in the city of Jerusalem. It calls on the people's committees and the striking forces to observe the implementation of this directive. We also urge all national factories to work to enhance the qualitative standard of products manufactured nationally and set reasonable prices.

—Consider the first week of April as a week to organize struggle and protest activities against the policy of looting and imposing taxes and fines and resisting the taxmen and policemen.

—Consider 9 April as a day of total strike on the occasion of the uprising entering a new month and on the occasion of the anniversary or Dayr Yasin massacre in 1948.

—The United National Leadership congratulates the Christian sects and all the sons of our people on the advent of glorious Easter and calls for considering the days of 30 March and 5 April as days of full opening of shops on the occasion of these feasts.

—Consider the second week of April as a week of struggle and solidarity activities with the masses of our people in Kuwait regarding the crimes perpetrated there against them.

—Consider 12 April as a distinct day of escalation and anger to commemorate our martyrs in the Zionist jails on the occasion of the martyrdom of the struggler, Ibrahim al-Ra'i, in the dungeons of the occupation.

—Stores will open all day on the occasion of the eve of blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Consider the days of 'Id al-Fitr as days for organizing social visits and the consolidation of social solidarity in order to organize visits to the families of martyrs, of prisoners, and of those deported. The 'Id ceremonies will be confined to social visits and canceling celebration manifestations.

—Consider 16 April as a day of escalation and anger in protest against the assassination of the national leader and symbol, the martyr Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, in which national festivals will be organized in all places in commemoration of his anniversary and his struggles.

—Consider 17 April as the day of the Palestinian prisoner, a day of carrying out the (?major) actions of solidarity with our prisoners in the Zionist jails and camps.

—Until the end of the blessed month of Ramadan the stores will be open until 1400 instead of the present 1300. Stores will be open on the last Friday of Ramadan, that is, 12 April.

—Palestinian summertime will begin on the morning of 5 April 1991 until the evening of 10 September 1991.

Algeria

Hijackers Hold Passengers at Algiers Airport

LD3103222391 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] An attempted plane hijack in Algiers. The aircraft had come from Bechar in the south of Algeria, according to journalists of Channel 3, the French language channel of Algiers Radio. Talks at Houari Boumedienne Airport are going on between Interior Minister Mohamed Salah Mohammedi and the hijackers. According to our Algerian colleagues, some of the passengers are still on board. A detail I have just been given: two armed men entered the Air Algeria plane by force after it had landed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport.

Hijackers Demand Broadcast of Statement

LD3103231191 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Excerpts] An Air Algeria plane has been held up since 1945 this evening at the Houari Boumediene Airport. Two armed men entered the cabin of the Air Algeria plane, flying from Bechar to Algiers, just after it landed at Houari Boumediene Airport at 1945. The two men demanded that a communique be read out on television. The minister of the interior who went there immediately managed to negotiate the release of all the passengers. Only the crew members are still being held in the plane. Negotiations between the minister of the interior and the two men are still going on.

From Houari Boumediene Airport, Dimbane Babi:

[Babi] [Passage omitted] On board the aircraft is a young man, quite an unusual one, because armed with a grenade he is threatening to blow up the plane. Everything began the moment the plane was getting ready to land. There were about 50 passengers on board. [Word indistinct] toward the cockpit and threatened to blow up the plane (?immediately) if the television did not broadcast the contents of a letter, which have not been revealed. Then a dialogue started between the control tower and the hijacker. Two groups of passengers were released, the first batch of 24 people [words indistinct] passengers, mainly women and children.

At the moment those on board the plane include the crew, five passengers, a delegation from the security services, and (?two) officials of Air Algeria. [sentence indistinct]

Hijacker Surrenders in 'Happy Ending'

LD0104081791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The crew of the Air Algeria plane, which was on a domestic flight from Bechar to Algiers, was released after midnight after being held hostage in the cockpit for several hours. The negotiations conducted by the interior minister led to the surrender of the hijacker. The hijacker—one man, not two as reported earlier—held the 54 passengers hostage when the plane landed at Houari Boumedienne Airport at 1930 after storming the cockpit armed with a hand grenade.

The interior minister, who went to the airport immediately after being informed, conducted the negotiations with the hijacker from the control tower. He first obtained the release of 24 people and another 21 passengers were freed later.

The hijacker had asked that a statement, the content of which has not been disclosed yet, be read on national television.

After the happy ending of the hijack of the Air Algeria plane, Transport Minister Hassen Kahlouche made statements to the media explaining the reasons motivating the hijacker to carry out this act. The minister indicated that the person responsible is of Algerian nationality and that he is about 35 years old. He added that he surrendered after four hours of negotiations and without committing any violence.

Regarding the motives behind his action, the minister pointed out that the hijacker wanted to convey a message to the nation in which he denounced the current political situation and the demagogic discourse used by some political parties. Mr Kahlouche added that the hijacker also wanted to appeal for national unity and called for the postponement of the legislative elections. Mr Hassan Kahlouche strongly condemned such an irresponsible act and said that nobody should express their opinions in this way.

Hamas Movement Presents Political Program

LD3003121891 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 30 Mar (APS)—The "Hamas" movement, political branch of "El Irshad oual Islah" association presented on Thursday in Algiers its political programme. The meeting organized since few days following the application for approval of "Hamas" before the Home Ministry, enabled Mahfoud Nahnah, president of the movement, to explain the objectives of his party which, he said, aims at "enforcing the Islamic solution and set up the Islamic society in the prospect of an Islamist state" in Algeria, according to a "realistic and moderate" approach.

"Hamas" stand for a solution "by steps," on the basis of a "dialogue and far from violence, political and religious terrorism..." Nahnah pointed out, adding that the project of "Islamic" society such as conceived by its party "banished the struggle of classes" and provides for the setting up of another kind of social relations founded on "Muslim fraternity and charity."

The Islamist state for which "Hamas" is militating, the president of the movement carried on, will be a state of "justice in which even the Christian and the Israelite will have their place." "Islam is not a religion which cuts the

heads," Nahnah said to "those who, ignoring every thing from Islam," threat to exert violence once in power.

Dealing with the part of woman in the Islamic society, the "Hamas" president indicated that the Islamist state recognizes and protects the woman's rights who can even (if the desires) undertake political activities.

Egypt

SANA Reports Al-Asad-Mubarak News Conference

NC0104720391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Apr 91

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Cairo on 1 April with foreign and domestic reporters]

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr, SANA correspondent—After completing their talks in Cairo, President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak answered questions from Arab and foreign reporters. The proceedings of the news conference were as follows:

[Reporter] Have you and President al-Asad discussed proposals on an international conference for peace in the Middle East? Are your views in agreement in this respect?

[Mubarak] The international conference for peace is based on Resolutions 242, 338, and 344. The United Nations, former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in his speech to the Knesset in 1977, and former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria, Egypt agreed upon this. Thus, an international conference is necessary. It is the umbrella under which the whole problem can be solved. However, we do not demand the convening of an international conference immediately lest we reach an impasse. It must be preceded by good preparation.

[Reporter] Did you discuss convening a regional conference?

[Mubarak] I do not understand what you mean by a regional conference. Do you mean the frontline states?

[Reporter] I guess the frontline states, Israel, the United States, and perhaps the Soviet Union—but not the rest of the permanent Security Council members.

[Mubarak] I believe that with the attendance of the five permanent members or by the United States, the Soviet Union and the frontline states in the region—Syria, Egypt, Israel, the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and Lebanon—the conference may succeed.

[Reporter] President Mubarak, because the current stage is one of clarity and frankness, I would like to ask about Egypt and Syria's steps together to clear the Arab air.

[Mubarak] We have grown used to clearing the air in the Arab world, but it will take time. The Arab air will be cleared in time.

[Reporter, to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad] What is your comment on this statement, and how do we begin clearing the Arab air?

[Al-Asad] All Arabs want to clear the Arab air and hope that solidarity will embrace all Arabs. As brother President Mubarak said, however, this will need time, and it will be achieved at the proper time.

[Reporter] Do you believe that an Arab summit conference must be convened now in order to reunite the Arab ranks?

[Al-Asad] I do not think this an urgent matter right now.

[Reporter] President Hafiz al-Asad, what is happening in Iraq now does not please any Arab, and weakening Iraq is not in any Arab's interest. Have you and President Husni Mubarak discussed ways to stop the bloodshed in Iraq?

[Al-Asad] Naturally, we have discussed the situation in the Gulf as a whole and the Arab situation in general. What is happening in Iraq is very complicated and all Arab citizens believe that it is a large internal problem in which, regrettably, extensive and destructive means are being used. This matter undoubtedly pains us, but because the issue is internal our ability to ease the situation is limited.

[Reporter] Have you reached an agreement on security arrangements in the region?

[Mubarak] So far, as we understand it, the security measures should start with a plan by the Gulf states and Arab countries. And when we need assistance from other countries, foreign countries, this matter will be discussed for coordination purposes.

[Reporter] What countries do you mean? Do you mean Turkey and Iran?

[Mubarak] I mean the United States and the other coalition states.

[Reporter] Will Turkey or Iran have a role in this security structure?

[Mubarak] Frankly, Iran is part of the Gulf region, but we did not discuss this point.

[Reporter] Is comprehensive Arab regional security possible, given the presence of foreign forces even though their task was limited and is now over?

[Mubarak] The task is not yet over because peace has not been established and because the problems still exist. As soon as all these problems are settled, we will demand the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the region.

Information Minister Cited on Cairo Summit

NC0104070191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that Egyptian and Syrian views are identical with regard to the situation in the region in general and in the Gulf region in particular. This consensus reflects

the Damascus Declaration signed by Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, he added.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent in Cairo, al-Sharif said that the process of Syrian-Egyptian cooperation is based on truth and principles and encompasses a call for the unity of Arab ranks and for joint Arab work politically, economically, socially, and culturally. We are optimistic about the outcome of this process in the various domains and at the various levels for the achievement of genuine pan-Arab security, al-Sharif said. Al-Sharif described the Damascus Declaration as a pan-Arab expression of the realities and future of the Arab world.

Concerning the Syrian-Egyptian summit in Cairo today, al-Sharif said that these meetings provide successive contributions to the process of cooperation between the two countries, a process based on a combination of facts and principles that became clear during the Gulf crisis.

Al-Sharif added that the Egyptian-Syrian summit is taking place within the framework of principles that have gained substance in light of the importance of the role played by Syria and Egypt in safeguarding pan-Arab security and facing future pan-Arab challenges. The talks between the two presidents will deal with the situation in the region in general as well as the Arab-Zionist conflict and the means to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Concerning the current situation in Iraq, Safwat al-Sharif said: We stand by the side of the Iraqi people and the unity of Iraqi territory. The Iraqi people have suffered from this catastrophe befalling them, he noted.

'Abd-al-Majid Denies Receiving Invitation to Iran

LD0204093791 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Athens, April 2, IRNA—Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid denied reports saying that he had received an invitation to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egyptian daily AL- AHRAM Monday briefly said. Abd-al-Majid said the delay in the arrival of an Iranian diplomat to take charge of the interest section in Cairo was due to the festival of the Iranian new year, the paper reported.

Egypt and Iran last month agreed to re-open their interest section in each other's capital. Egypt's Ambassador Ahmed Namik [spelling as received] took charge of his country's interest section in Tehran last week and his Iranian counterpart Behzad Khateri was to open the section on the same day in Cairo.

Gaza Palestinian Lawyer Urges 'Coordination'

NC0204121391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0934 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, the former doyen of lawyers in the occupied Gaza Strip who is visiting Cairo at the head of a Palestinian delegation from Gaza, has stressed the need for resuming Egyptian-Palestinian coordination on peace efforts in light of the current international developments following the Gulf crisis.

Abu-Rahmah told AL-AHRAM today that the Palestinians are following with great interest the proposal to hold an international peace conference in the Middle East which would apply to the Palestinian problem the same principles that were applied during the Gulf crisis.

Abu-Rahmah said that the United States should support this proposal and back the Palestinians' right to self-determination, pointing out that there is constant coordination between the Palestinian leaderships in the occupied territory and the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Abu-Rahmah described the situation in the occupied territory as serious because of the continuing curfew imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities whose arbitrary measures against the Palestinian citizens are continuous and increasing.

Abu-Rahmah said that these Israeli measures will create a very painful economic problem in the occupied territory and will increase the Gaza Strip's number of unemployed alone by about 50,000.

Abu-Rahmah pointed out that the current visit by a Gaza Strip Palestinian delegation to Cairo is aimed at restoring Egyptian-Palestinian coordination, improving relations which were affected by the Gulf crisis, endeavoring to win political and material support for the Gaza Strip Palestinians, and obtaining Egyptian aid in the fields of housing, education, and health in view of the deteriorating Palestinian living conditions.

Concluding his statement to AL-AHRAM, Abu-Rahmah said that during the visit the Palestinian delegation will hold contacts with Arab League officials to mobilize Arab efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied territory.

The Gaza Strip Palestinian delegation also includes Akram Matar, director of the Gaza Ophthalmic Hospital and 'Aqil Matar, head of the engineers association.

Government To Begin Utilizing IMF Loan in July

NC3103213591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2019 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports in its Monday edition that Egypt will begin utilizing the $300 million structural reform loan, recently agreed upon with the IMF, at the beginning of July. The paper adds that the loan will be used for two basic purposes—strengthening the balance of payments and providing the needs of production in the public and private sectors.

The paper says that an Egyptian economic delegation will leave for Washington on 20 April to begin negotiations on

loan repayment terms, the interest rate, and the procedures for its execution immediately after the government prepares the bill regulating investment and developing the public sector and submits it to the People's Assembly.

The paper adds that Egypt will receive the loan in two installments, one of $150 million immediately after it signs the agreement with the IMF, and the second 12 months after it is signed.

UN To Sponsor Environmental Protection Center

NC3103173891 Cairo MENA in English 1612 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, March 31 (GNA)—Egyptian state minister for cabinet affairs and administrative development Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd said that an Arab centre for environmental protection will be set up with the help and participation of the United Nations.

'Ubayd told the Bahraini daily 'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ' that the Gulf states and Egypt will contribute financially and scientifically in supporting the centre to enable it to operate quickly so as to deal with the pollution problem.

A special unit will be set up by the centre to deal with environmental disasters as they occurred, he added.

He noted the next period will witness a boom, prosperity and strengthed relations between Egypt and the states in the region, after the previous phase proved that the destiny and the future are one and the integration is essential for the sake of stability and development.

On talks between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund, 'Ubayd said that IMF's mission is now in Egypt and draft agreement with Egypt is being prepared to be referred to the IMF's board of directors for approval.

Libya

Possible Bahrain-U.S. Military Accord Viewed

LD0104153191 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Manama, al Tary [April] 1, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—An official Bahraini spokesman denied reports which said that a new military accord was concluded between Bahrain and the United States of America.

The Gulf news agency quoted the spokesman as saying that no new security arrangements have been made so far between Bahrain and the USA.

JANA's editor for Arab affairs commented on that. He said when Great Jamahiriyah warned against the danger of setting up an American military base in Bahrain it did so on the basis of firm principles and a clear vision of the danger posed by the presence of foreign military bases in any Arab country to the freedom and security of the Arab nation.

Our stance was clear regarding the reports which referred to the establishment of an advanced command for the rapid deployment forces in Bahrain. Although Great Jamahiriyah ignored the foreign presence in the Arab Gulf, which was due to the threat to which the countries of the region were subjected after the invasion of Kuwait, now that the threat ended there is no justification for the continued foreign military presence in the region.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying considering our eagerness for the independence of Bahrain, we hope that the reported statements by the Bahrain spokesman are true and also considering the eagerness we would like to be sure that such foreign military bases were not established.

JANA Denies Interference in Ethiopian Affairs

LD0104080691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Apr (JANA)—Radio Ethiopia has quoted what it describes as witnesses saying that four Libyan soldiers were among what it called insurgents of the Popular Liberation Front "Tigre," who are fighting the Ethiopian Government forces.

Commenting on this, the JANA international affairs editor has stated: While we deny this report in part and in whole, we express our surprise and wonder in whose interest Radio Ethiopia propagates such an unfounded report.

The editor affirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah has nothing to do with what is happening in Ethiopia, and that out of its constant principled stands it does not interfere in the internal affairs of the fraternal, friendly, and other countries, and it constantly affirms its stand that aims at the consolidation of security and stability in African countries and respect for these countries' sovereignty.

Chad Granted 3 Million Dollars in Financial Aid

LD0204095191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Apr (JANA)—JANA has learned that the Great Jamahiriyah has granted financial aid to the fraternal Chadian people to enable them to bolster their general budget.

A check for $3 million was delivered to Chad by the brother secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation during his recent visit there.

The Great Jamahiriyah will also provide urgent food aid to the areas affected by famine in northern and eastern Chad as a gesture of solidarity by the Libyan Arab people with their brothers the Chadian people in the face of current conditions.

Saddam Chairs New Cabinet's First Meeting

NC0104194391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired the first meeting of the cabinet in its new formation. His excellency the president greeted the cabinet and issued directives in an opening address.

INA Reports Saddam Address

NC0204113391 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 3, [as received] INA—President Saddam Husayn yesterday presided over the first meeting of the new Council of Ministers headed by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi.

Addressing the council, President Husayn said the vandals would not succeed in shaking the noble and genuine values since they move in contradiction to what is honorable and to virtue and that those agents who had come from across the borders had stabbed what is honorable and had looted property.

The president further said that majority of our people in the north are genuine and honest and keen over patriotic and noble values.

President Husayn further said that big tasks are awaiting us for achieving the prosperity of Iraq and security of the citizen.

In a speech on the occasion, Prime Minister Hammadi pledged to fulfil contents of the oath they had taken and that he and members of the cabinet would exert utmost efforts for realizing the duties included in President Husayn's speech on the formation of the new cabinet.

Speaking to INA after the meeting, Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information said that premier Hammadi stressed that there are two basic issues before his cabinet namely the reconstruction of the destruction and sabotage caused by the aggression on Iraq and what had been done by saboteurs and secondly extending the best of services to the citizens during the current conditions.

The minister added that the Council of Ministers would convene next week to discuss and endorse programs of the ministries to undertake the aforementioned issues.

Information Minister Views Session

NC0104205691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2023 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—At the end of the first meeting of the new Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi this evening, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi stated the following to INA:

At the beginning of the meeting, Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi expressed pride in the members of the cabinet. He then stressed that we will go all-out to implement the tasks of the Government as set by leader President Saddam Husayn in his 16 March speech and his address during the constitutional swearing-in by the prime minister, his deputies, and members of the cabinet on 26 March 1991.

The prime minister said that the Cabinet will act in accordance with the Constitution and in a democratic atmosphere to implement its program for the upcoming phase.

Dr. Hammadi stressed that we have two issues to address: First, to give priority to repairing the damage and destruction caused by the aggression against our country and the acts of the saboteurs; and second, to expedite providing the best services to citizens at the current stage.

Concluding his statement to INA, the culture and information minister said that the Council of Ministers decided to meet next week to discuss and approve ministries' programs on the tasks of repairing the damage and sabotage, and of improving services to citizens.

Saddam Receives Ibrahim To Discuss Northern Tour

NC0104173291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1722 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Ibrahim briefed the president on the results of his tour of the northern governorates. He conveyed the greetings of the Kurdish people and their profound thanks for the care accorded them by his excellency the president.

UN Representative Complains About U.S. Activities

Submits Second Memo on Air Violations

NC0104210991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 1 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations has submitted a memorandum to Javier Perez de Cuellar about the violation of Iraqi air space by U.S. planes.

The INA correspondent in New York reported that the Iraqi delegate to the United Nations asked that the memorandum be circulated as a Security Council document.

The Iraqi memorandum reported that U.S.-Saudi air activity for 31 March-1 April totaled 56 air sorties conducted in 28 formations flying at an altitude of [word indistinct] and a speed of 720 km per hour.

The memorandum noted that the hostile U.S.-Saudi aircraft concentrated on Baghdad and surrounding areas for the purposes of provocation, observation, and reconnaissance and flew over Baghdad several times.

This is the second memorandum submitted by Iraq's UN delegate within 24 hours. He submitted a memorandum earlier on the U.S. aircraft violations for 30-31 March, totaling 92 sorties.

Charges Desecration of Archaeological Sites

NC3103095191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] New York, 31 Mar (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has called on this international organization to shoulder its responsibility in protecting Iraq's heritage and antiquities from American troops, who are desecrating archaeological sites in southern Iraq.

In a memorandum issued to the UN secretary general last night, the Iraqi representative held the world community responsible and called for a serious contribution to preserve the heritage and treasures of the oldest civilization in Mesopotamia.

He described how U.S. troops steal into the archaeological sites in Ur, Dhi Qar Governorate, and referred to the treasures the site contains. He urged the international body and its specialized agencies to act quickly to protect this heritage from the tampering and plundering it is being exposed to at the hands of the troops.

The Iraqi representative has requested that the memorandum be distributed among the member states as an official UN Security Council document.

Interior, Health Ministers Inspect Dahuk, Karbala'

NC0104181591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Dahuk, 1 Apr (INA)—Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today inspected the Sumayl District in the northern Governorate of Dahuk after the Armed Forces purged it of the remnants of saboteurs who took to their heels. The minister toured the district's quarters and streets and acquainted himself with the citizens' condition. He also inspected the public utilities and citizens' property which had been sabotaged and looted by the agent mobs who sought to harm the sons of our peaceful people in order to terrorize them and disturb Iraq's security and stability.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id today visited Karbala' Governorate. He was briefed on the status of health services rendered to the citizens. The health minister urged al-Husayn Hospital and maternity hospital staff in the governorate to make extraordinary efforts and offer the best treatment services to the patients and to provide all the prerequisities for their care.

Trade Minister on Food Supply to Kurdistan Region

NC2903213091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asserted that the Trade Ministry has provided the foodstuffs needed by the sons of the Kurdistan autonomous region from the initiation of the unjust U.S. economic embargo up to today.

Certain foreign media have reported that the so-called Kurdish opposition has asked for certain foreign parties to provide foodstuffs to the citizens in the autonomous region. In response to this claim, Minister Salih said that despite the fact that certain governorates were subject to acts of sabotage carried out by infiltrators from across the borders—including the governorates of the Kurdistan autonomous region and al-Ta'mim—his ministry has begun to implement President Saddam Husayn's orders to send large quantities of flour and foodstuffs to the areas. These supplies will be rationed to the citizens in accordance with their ration cards.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih stated that the saboteur groups, whose evil hands reached the governorates of the autonomous region and al-Ta'mim, have destroyed and stolen the following foodstuffs allocated to the governorates in the region: 77,000 tonnes of cereals; 4,522 tonnes of sugar; 2,993 tonnes of cooking oil; 2,074 tonnes of soap and detergents; 747 tonnes of baby milk; and 173 tonnes of tea. He pointed out that the mobs and saboteurs have also looted the state departments and the Trade Ministry's warehouses and set fire to the foodstuffs stored there.

The minister said that beginning today companies affiliated with the ministry have begun to pump large quantities of flour to the al-Ta'mim Governorate, the city of Karkuk and its districts and subdistricts. The flour will be distributed to the citizens. He added that the same operation will take place in the governorates of the autonomous region in Iraqi Kurdistan as soon as they are purged of the agent traitors, who act against the interests of our glorious Kurdish people.

The minister said the traitors' begging for foreign assistance, especially from the sides that pushed them to perpetrate their cowardly and treasonous acts, shows their corrupt nature and their isolation from the great Iraqi people, who reject such humiliating cries because they damage their dignity, pride, and ability to strongly rally around President Saddam Husayn.

The trade minister said that Iranian assistance did not exceed two truck loads of foodstuffs. That, along with the foodstuffs secured by the ministry, was looted and stolen by the insurgent mobs coming from outside the border, from Iran in particular.

The trade minister explained that the amount of foodstuffs the ministry has received to date from organizations and other international agencies does not exceed

3,000 tonnes. He said this assistance, which was originally destined for hospitals and orphanages, does not meet even a small part of the Iraqis' daily needs which are secured by the ministry. He explained that the average daily need of flour and other foodstuffs is more than 10,000 tonnes, and the 3,000 tonnes of assistance constitutes only 0.1 percent of the Iraqis' monthly need.

Flour Supplies Dispatched to North

NC0104145691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—Twenty huge trucks loaded with flour left for the northern Iraqi governorates of al-Ta'mim and Irbil today. This step is part of the emergency campaign to supply the citizens in those areas with flour and foodstuffs. Strategic supplies in those areas have been destroyed and set ablaze by the criminal gangs, the enemies of the people and homeland.

Meanwhile, 26 huge trucks loaded with flour left for al-Qadisiyah and Dhi Qar Governorates, while 23 more departed for Maysan today. The loads will be distributed among the citizens of these governorates.

Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad visited al-Ta'mim Governorate today and met with Governor Hashim Hasan al-Majid. They discussed how to (?repair) the damage inflicted on the state's property by the criminal mobs. [passage omitted]

Rebels Report 'Acute' Shortage of Supplies

NC3003104491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0925 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 30 Mar (SANA)—Today's issue of the newspaper TISHRIN states that fierce fighting continues in numerous parts of Iraq, and that the revolutionary forces are making progress in many locations while Iraqi soldiers are joining the revolution with all their equipment.

The newspaper said that information available to it confirms that the revolution forces besieging Mosul are now a stone's-throw away from liberating the city and expelling the elements of authority in it. It added that most of the major parties have opened their headquarters and that joint committees have been formed to guarantee the continued operation of the government's civilian offices and institutions so they can perform their duties and provide those services that can be supplied to the citizens.

It added that the liberated areas, which contain more than 5 million inhabitants, are suffering from an acute shortage of supplies and the Baghdad regime is preventing supplies from reaching the five governorates [not further identified].

Kurdish Official Cited on Karkuk Battle

NC3103080891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Now that the revolutionary forces of the sons of our steadfast Kurdish people have succeeded in aborting the regime's desperate attempts to regain the city of Karkuk, a high-ranking Kurdish official in the Karkuk operations command has stated that 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri [deputy chairman of Iraq's Revolution Command Council] may have been wounded in clashes that raged along the city's axis on Friday.

In another development, the same official stated that the revolutionary forces in the southern area of the city are still engaged in purging the remaining pockets of the regime and its mercenaries, who committed the most horrific crimes against the unarmed sons of our Kurdish people.

Kurds Capture 2,000 Soldiers

LD0104154291 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 1, IRNA—A commander of the Welfare Committee of the Islamic Movement of Iraq's Kurdistan said Monday that in the course of fightings for liberating Karkuk in northern Iraq over the past few days at least 2,000 government soldiers had been captured by the militant Kurds. He added 1,000 government soldiers had also been killed.

According to the same source Iraqi Army had bombed residential quarters in Karkuk Sunday killing a large group of women, men and children.

Opposition Radio Reports Clashes Near Al-Kut

NC3103082291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] A strike force of our patient revolutionaries has intercepted an armored brigade that was advancing along the (Qmatiyah)-al-Sa'd axis south of al-Kut. A clash ensued with the brigade members, who were dispersed and defeated.

Our troops killed or wounded scores of brigade members and destroyed six tanks and a large number of vehicles.

In another development, our sources at the scene of the clash report that the regime failed to take control of the scene of the confrontation, despite the use of helicopters. The region is still controlled by our revolutionaries.

Brigade Destroyed

LD3103180491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Sources opposing the Iraqi regime today announced that clashes between the popular forces and Ba'thist military personnel continue in the north and south of Iraq.

According to a report from the Central News Unit, those sources said an armored brigade advancing toward southern al-Kut on the (?Tieb Shaykh Sa'd) road was attacked and destroyed by opposition forces.

According to the report, personnel of that brigade, who were protected by air cover provided by helicopters, were forced to disperse.

At the same time, a group of people who took refuge in Iran said that since yesterday the popular forces have taken control of four oil fields in the city of al'Amarah. Sources opposed to the Iraqi regime announced that the efforts of that country's army to retake the city of Karkuk were foiled, and the city continues to be controlled by the people.

Kurds Concede Irbil Lost, Deny Dahuk Retaken

NC3103191891 Paris AFP in English 1903 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, March 31 (AFP)—Government officials took foreign reporters on a tour of the northern oil-producing city of Karkuk on Sunday to demonstrate that it was under their control, and claimed that government troops had retaken two other cities from rebels in Iraqi Kurdistan.

A Kurdish opposition group in the Syrian capital of Damascus conceded that loyalist troops might have retaken one of the cities, Irbil, but said the other, Dahuk, remained in rebel hands.

"It is possible that the insurgents withdrew from Irbil in order not to increase the number of fatalities," a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) spokesman said in the Syrian capital.

In an interview with AFP in Damascus, PUK spokesman Kamal Fu'ad said Iraqi troops had concentrated intense fire on Irbil, capital of the autonomous region of Kurdistan.

Troops were "using napalm and phosphorous shells and causing a large number of casualties," he charged.

Dahuk, in northern Iraq near Turkey, "is still in the hands of the forces of the uprising, but is under heavy bombardment," he said.

The group called on international public opinion to "intervene immediately to stop these massacres," Mr. Fu'ad said.

Iraqi Interior Ministry officials said loyalist troops had retaken both Irbil and Dahuk and that there remained "only pockets of resistance," particularly in the Governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah.

Al-Sulaymaniyah, along with the Governorates of Irbil and Dahuk, make up the autonomous region of Kurdistan.

The Iraqi News Agency monitored in Nicosia said the Kurdish rebels "fled toward the mountains, abandoning their weapons."

Loyalist Kurdish troops meanwhile were chasing rebels out of these two cities, the agency said.

The population gave a warm and lively welcome to the arrival of government troops, it said.

Correspondents visiting Karkuk under the escort of officials from the Iraqi Ministry of Information saw loyalist troops patrolling the cities in all directions and soldiers camping on the outskirts.

It appeared to be firmly in government hands.

Baghdad Television Carries Scenes of Irbil

NC3103211591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—Baghdad Television tonight showed scenes of the town of Irbil, capital of the autonmous region, liberated from the filth of the traitors, renegades, and agents of Zionism.

The film showed 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, surrounded by members of the general command of the Armed Forces, addressing a large crowd of brave fighters and residents of dear Irbil Governorate.

The film also showed scenes of the streets and quarters of Irbil after its liberation from the traitors, renegades, and agents of Zionism.

Earlier, 'Izzat Ibrahim sent a cable to President Saddam Husayn on the liberation of Irbil and Dahuk in northern Iraq and the Iraqi forces' full control of these two towns.

Baghdad Prison Raid, Rebel-Controlled Towns Cited

LD0104171591 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Ilam, April 1, IRNA—A group of 5 Iraqis from the holy city of al-Najaf arrived in Iran through the border checkpoint Helaleh in Ilam Province on Monday and requested asylum. The group of Iraqis are men who were sent to a Red Crescent camp in the provincial city of Mehran. Ali Hussein-Karim [name as received], 30, an agricultural engineer from al-Najaf said he was a prisoner for five and a half years and that he had been freed some days ago as militants raided the prison in Baghdad. He said the Iraqi Armed Forces routinely attack the people using tanks, helicopters and airplanes, and that helicopters hover over the highway which connects al-Kut to Baghdad. He added the majority of the people in al-Najaf and Karbala have fled out of those cities, and that the people and militants are fighting with the government forces. According to the same source the Iraqi militants now have full control over al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah, al-Diwaniyah, and parts of al-Najaf and

al-Kufah and Karbala. He added that hundreds of Ba'thist agents have been identified and killed, and that the Ba'thists in northern and southern cities have come to Baghdad for their own safety. Another arriving Iraqi said that the majority of political and other prisoners in Karbala' and al-Najaf have been freed from prisons with the help of the people.

Opposition Attacks Al-Basrah Command Center

NC0104054291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The Iraqi popular revolution forces have attacked the petrochemical plant's college in the city of Abu al-Khasib in al-Basrah Governorate, which the Iraqi regime's authorities had turned into a military command center. Five military commanders loyal to the regime were killed and 32 other people wounded in the attack.

The revolution forces launched a second attack yesterday against a military court in Abu al-Khasib. All officers stationed at the court were killed and large amounts of military equipment were seized. [passage omitted]

According to a statement issued yesterday by the office of Ayatollah Muhammad Taqiy al-Mudarrisi, an Iraqi opposition leader, popular resistance operations against the Iraqi regime are still going on in Karbala' and the head of the Iraqi regime has ordered his men to crush antagonists in the city, even if this leads to the destruction of the entire city.

The statement added that the sound of intermittent gunfire was being heard in Baghdad, which indicates that clashes were raging between the popular forces and the regime's troops during the night. The statement asserted that the revolution is continuing in the al-'Amarah region and the south of al-Basrah, where two brigades belonging to the regime's guards were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Opposition Forces Claim 'Full Control' of Karbala'

NC0104172591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA)—The Iraqi popular revolution forces have succeeded in gaining full control of Karbala' following two-days of ferocious fighting between the revolution forces and Iraqi regime forces.

A statement issued by the Islamic al-Da'wah Party in Iraq here today says that a force of the popular revolution launched an offensive against a brigade of the 6th Armored Division in the Suwayf area near al-Basrah. The revolution forces managed to destroy six tanks and kill many troops of the Iraqi regime.

The statement points out that a popular revolution unit attacked an Iraqi regime's military formation deployed at the petrochemical factory in Abu al-Khasib, inflicting grave losses on life and equipment. It adds that another revolution force carried out a successful attack on the Iraqi regime's military units guarding the oil installations in al-'Amarah, during which the revolutionaries managed to gain control of four oil fields after having completely wiped out the forces defending them.

Meanwhile, the regime's forces have carried out other attempts to regain al-Kut. They dispatched an armored brigade backed up by aircraft toward the town through the al-Tayyib Shaykh Sa'd axis, but the popular revolution forces intercepted them and inflicted grave losses.

The statement stresses that the popular revolution forces in northern Iraq are engaged in fierce fighting with the regime's units, which have desperately been trying to gain control of Irbil over the past three days. The regime's forces, however, suffered heavy losses.

National Concord Opposition Party Appeals for Aid

LD2903222891 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Shukri Salih Zaki, the official spokesman of the Iraqi National Concord, one of the major parties of the Iraqi opposition, has stated the following:

[Begin Zaki recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

First, proceeding from our belief that it is imperative to unify all efforts and potential available to the sincere and zealous sons of the proud Iraqi people who are trying to get rid of the regime of the ruling clique in Baghdad, the Iraqi National Concord, through its extensions inside Iraq, have been in constant contact with several clean patriotic elements which still occupy positions of responsibility, whether in the government inside Iraq or in government institutions outside Iraq, and who occupy senior official positions.

Those contacts resulted in coordination and unification of those efforts and possibilities for the purpose of speeding the death blow against the dictatorial and bloody regime which has governed Iraq for well over 20 years.

As a result of those contacts, a number of Iraqi ambassadors and members of Iraqi diplomatic bodies have responded to the call of national duty in these crucial days in the history of Iraq. They resigned their posts and joined the Iraqi National Concord.

They are the brave, believing vanguard which will be followed by numerous resignations of the Iraqi regime's ambassadors and representatives and members of the diplomatic corps in various countries of the world, a matter that annuls every credibility and legitimacy claimed by the mentioned regime about its representation of the Iraqi people.

Second, the Iraqi National Concord and its elements inside Iraq have succeeded in polarizing a revolutionary condition among the Iraqi Armed Forces which is aimed

at coordinating with the rest of the elements and the patriotic forces the crucial steps to be taken which are expected by the Iraqi people, and which represent the destruction of Saddam Husayn and his gang.

Third, the Iraqi National Concord affirms that the blessed uprising against Saddam Husayn and his gang is the uprising of the entire Iraqi people. It came as an inevitable result and a reaction to the bitter suffering resulting from the policy of the bloody terror and the dictatorial regime which committed crimes and mortal sins unparalleled in history.

The Concord stresses the dire need to take up the proposal that calls for formation of a unified field command of all parties of the patriotic opposition movement which strives for developing the uprising and meeting its needs and enabling it to reach its planned objective by enlisting the entire Iraqi people, in order to swoop on the regime of the Saddam Husayn gang and destroy it. It calls for the formation of a national provisional coalition government which will work to realize the aims announced by the Iraqi opposition at its first conference convened in Beirut this month.

Fourth, the Iraqi National Concord, while reaffirming the resolve of the forces of our fighting Iraqi people to end the abnormal situation in Iraq, appeals to our Arab brothers and Arab forces and the friends of our people to hasten their support for this movement and help Iraq's salvation from the dictatorship. Iraq's unity and independence must be preserved in a way that would bring to the entire area the means of security, tranquillity, and stability so that all may free themselves for removing the consequences of the war and the detested dictatorship, and for whatever will prevent Iraq from making more victims and suffering more destruction, from which it has already suffered as a result of the foolhardy adventures of Saddam Husayn.

Fifth, the Concord appeals to all regional and international bodies to come forth and help and rescue our bereaved Iraqi people by all means available and without delay, providing nourishment and medicine. We stress that these bodies should themselves supervise these operations so that the Iraqi people may benefit from them directly and without interference from the collapsed authorities in Baghdad. God is the best granter of success. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

Dailies Discuss, Comment on Country-Wide Situation

AL-QADISIYAH on Coming Reconstruction

NC0204122591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH emphasizes that the phase of reconstructing what has been destroyed by the aggression and creating a free and honorable Iraq that is safeguarded from its enemies and abusers requires greater concerted efforts, loyalty, acumen, and sacrifice.

In its editorial today, the paper reviews the features of the new historic phase Iraq is embarking on and says that this phase requires us to resolutely resist any attempt, of whatever form or affiliation, to change the constants that have been based on the law. Therefore, there is no room for favoritism and discrimination between one citizen and another; everyone will be rewarded or punished only for what one does.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say that it is necessary, as we embark on the new phase, to uphold the supremacy of the law above all other considerations. The supremacy of the law must be all-embracing and excepting no one, whoever he may be. This can be achieved through the constitutional and legal institutions where the people will be equal under the law, and whoever violates the law will not be spared whatever his private considerations may be.

The paper adds that the democracy we seek is the democracy of work which each individual expresses beginning with himself and then through his practices at home, in his department, and in his environs. It is a democracy of daily behavior through which we can create constants and remove every case that contradicts them and that does not uphold the spirit of faith in principles.

AL-QADISIYAH called for a careful reading of leader Saddam Husayn's concept on the need to build democracy as a source of strength for the individual and the community.

The paper says that this will enable us to establish the sound foundations of the coming phase, including the application of the basic principles of democracy.

AL-QADISIYAH on 'Unity' of Armed Forces

NC0104092691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that the unity of our valiant armed forces and their national awareness and constant ability to act have been the basic guarantee for nipping the conspiracy in the bud and crushing it in its early stages.

In its editorial today, the paper, the organ of the Defense Ministry, emphasizes that our great people's backing of their army and their rallying around their historical leadership represented by President Saddam Husayn have resulted in liquidating the pockets of agents and criminals in the southern part of the dear homeland and in pursuing the remnants of the mercenaries who carry forged Kurdish identity in our beloved north—so much so that they soon retreated to the cells from which they had so meanly and vilely infiltrated.

The paper adds that Iraq, with its leadership, people, and army, has offered great sacrifices in serving its national and pan-Arab principles and its firm will to be free and to control its own independent decisionmaking vis-a-vis the world's mightiest treacherous force. Despite all the

damage and destruction that has befallen its economic and services foundations, Iraq has remained loyal to these principles and has rejected subservience despite all the circumstances of the aggression and the pressures of blackmail and intimidation.

The paper notes that Iraq will absolutely not cede an inch of its land nor will its desire to be independent and free be bent by a treacherous plot or the actions of dissolute mercenaries who have tied themselves to the foreigners and whose treason has been exposed to the entire world.

Concluding its editorial, AL-QADISIYAH affirms that despite the difficult and harassing circumstances it is experiencing, Iraq is embarking on the building of a prosperous future through the efforts of its sons in their various segments and rich diverse social and national structure. The construction of the homeland is a sacred task for the Iraqi people and the protection of its security and sovereignty is also a sacred duty for the Iraqi Army, which is capable of doing so as it has always done.

AL-THAWRAH on 'Purging' of Kurdistan

NC0204092491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the Iraqi Armed Forces will complete the purging of Iraqi Kurdistan cities and villages within a few days.

In an editorial today, the paper says the autonomy process in that area will be restored so it can continue its development and progress and so our people there can play their role along with all other zealous Iraqis to perform the urgent national tasks required at this stage, notably reconstruction, repairing the damage that was caused by the aggression of the 30 countries and the unsuccessful adventurers, and completing the establishment of our democratic institutions in various spheres.

AL-THAWRAH reviews the heroic role that our valiant Army and the noble sons of our people in Kurdistan are carrying out by purging the area's cities and villages and chasing the agents' remnants out of the homeland.

The paper says: The purging of Irbil, Dahuk, and Zakho was carried out in rapid and decisive operations that lasted only a few hours and it is clear and certain that the remnants of the traitors and saboteurs are in a state of total and final collapse and that they know their inevitable end is near.

The paper notes: The purging operations have demonstrated our people's and victorious Armed Forces' determination to eradicate these misguided and agent gangs and force their remnants to return to the dark burrows and dens from which they came.

AL-THAWRAH on Postwar Job Duties

NC3103151191 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Mar 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Absolute Confidence in Present and Future"]

[Text] Now that Iraq and its great people have managed to remain steadfast in the face of the military aggression by 30 states, and after it overcame—through genuine national determination—the conspiratorial plan to destroy the country through subsequent aggressions and through premeditated, organized action from behind the borders, it has become necessary to formulate and draw up the goals and characteristics of the new phase which will constitute the basis of the required change and a starting point toward enriching and developing all political, social, economic, and spiritual aspects of life.

In his statement at the swearing-in in ceremony of the new cabinet, leader President Saddam Husayn referred to a number of political matters relevant to the duties of the new stage, including the need for every official to perform his duties in the state within his specialty. Moreover, jobs should be described in relation to the specific responsibilities assigned them. In other words, no redundancy of responsibilities and duties should be allowed from now on.

The lessons of the previous stage have proven that the overlap of duties and responsibilities has resulted in weakening many jobs. The duties of the governor, the status and influence of the minister, and the jobs of the subdistrict administrative officer, the district administrative officer, the qadi, the police officer, and the army officer were weakened. Therefore, any overlap of duties and responsibilities is no longer acceptable at this stage, and everyone should work in accordance with the new formula, so that each can proceed with his own work without interfering with others' work in terms of practical application, vision, and trend.

There has also been a precise description of duties and difficulties of the new stage. The minister can no longer correct his mistakes with money—as was the case in the past—or cover up certain errors aided by the state's preoccupation with other matters, which helped to obscure certain technical mistakes. At this stage, the minister should show his real qualifications and carry out his duties under the new circumstances and on the basis of the idea: "We should work with what is available." But we should not imagine that we cannot add anything to what is available by mobilizing energies in a responsible and successful pioneering move in the right direction in order to achieve the goals within the shortest time and the least cost and committing errors that diminish available energy and resources.

The difficulties facing Iraq today are not limited to the U.S. military aggression and the resulting comprehensive destruction of the Iraqi economic infrastructure and basic services directly related to the daily life of the Iraqi

people. These difficulties are also created by some people's treachery beyond the borders. The sedition was part of the aggressive plan and its successive pages in terms of goals and intentions.

Just as the U.S. aggression was conducted to destroy Iraq, the saboteurs and their treacherous followers who infiltrated from beyond the borders also wanted to destroy Iraq and expose the Iraqi people's security, stability, and lives to grave dangers that would harm their present and future, as well as the present and future of Iraq—land, people, and history.

As our great people look forward to a fruitful effort to rebuild and guarantee the factors for continuing the march of construction and building, we have confidence in the present and the future. The source of this deep confidence is the Iraqis' firm determination to eliminate all repercussions of the distress, release the people's energies, mobilize all efforts and available resources in the right way and direction, and organize plans of action to continue construction and achieve prosperity in Iraq under democracy.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Cease-Fire Resolution

NC0204095691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the draft [cease-fire] resolution the United States is trying to impose on Iraq and to pass through the UN Security Council clearly expresses personal whims and evil objectives and is an attempt to achieve the maximum possible benefit and personal interests for this tyrannical state.

In an analysis today, the paper says that the U.S. draft resolution is an act of extremism and a new tyranny that reflects an impudent fanaticism, an exposed fascism, and an immoral psychological approach full of aggravations that are hostile to Iraq, the Arab nation, and mankind.

The paper adds: The U.S. draft resolution is aimed at showing further bias toward the Zionist entity and achieving further control and hegemony. It also clearly, frankly, and without ambiguity exposes the hostile civilization of the Western community in times of war and peace—a civilization whose slogan is survival of the fittest and death for the weak.

The paper says: Out of this evil draft resolution, the United States seeks to achieve several declared objectives. The paper stresses that Iraqi steadfastness will continue, and this steadfastness will be the means of foiling all these objectives just as the Iraqis, through their strong will, foiled the great conspiracy that was embodied in the aggression carried out by 30 states using all the weapons of destruction in their possession.

AL-'IRAQ on Relations With Neighbors

NC0104104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—AL-'IRAQ newspaper writes that relations among neighboring states are governed by objective rules dictated by historical and geographical facts that do not ignore the subjective impact involved.

In its editorial today, AL-'IRAQ writes that this subjective impact is related to the political practice and the existing ruling systems in these countries. If the interests are common, it follows that the objective rules should be taken as a starting point, since the rules of historical and geographical factors are untouchable and should be the primary factor in determining the theory and specifications of the national security of these countries.

The paper adds that developing relations among neighboring countries according to these criteria will continue to provide the necessary security bedrock for stabilizing, consolidating, and promoting these relations, because they are built on the established objective values and the constant need for security.

In its editorial, the paper says that pursuing common interests is the approach which should be sought by neighboring countries, because deviation from that course is bound to lead these relations astray along a twisted course, making them vulnerable to surprises. This, the paper says, is the most serious ailment that could afflict international relations in general and relations among neighboring countries in particular.

The paper adds that international relations in today's world have become an indicator of the presence of communication channels between countries and among the centers of interaction in them. The value of this indicator for neighboring countries is enhanced by the neighborhood factor, with all it entails and stands for, because the people of these countries find no other resort than to coexist peacefully, since they cannot abandon their homelands and neighbors. Hence, the paper believes, these people have no other option but to establish flourishing relations based on mutual respect, common interests, and nonintervention in other countries' domestic affairs.

The paper stresses that understanding is the responsibility of all in neighboring countries. The absence of understanding can turn the blessing of communication among states into a point of misunderstanding, thus leaving the door open for problems and crises, the paper contends. It adds that experience shows that any crisis that afflicts the lawful rules governing relations among countries not only deals a blow to mutual benefits, but also opens the door to many tragedies and pains.

AL-'IRAQ concludes: Common sense can only view the approach of destroying relations among neighboring countries as an organized trend. It is a trend that, we can openly say, forewarns of black clouds at a time when

relations among countries need the bright sunlight that illuminates the road of common interests and fruitful and constructive cooperation.

Papers View New Government Policy Statement

NC0104083891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0642 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the government's new policy statement is a realistic and comprehensive view of the most important features and tasks of the new phase facing Iraq.

In its editorial, the paper comments on the new government policy statement, announced two days ago by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, by saying that the policy statement contains a correct diagnosis and places in the right order the priorities that need to be addressed in the current stage.

These priorities, the paper says, include repairing what has been sabotaged, providing the services in which shortages have appeared, providing food and basic necessities to the population in general, and continuing to build the democratic institutions in various domains, particularly those concerned with the underpinnings of our political system; namely, the Constitution, party life, the media organs, and the public cultural establishments.

AL-THAWRAH says that the accomplishment of these two urgent national tasks [not further specified] that deal with the life and rights of all the people and the details of their daily life in the current situation, with reliance on the available resources, require serious and distinguished performance, continuous and precise follow-up, and unshifting commitment to the stated policy.

The paper says that the guarantee for the successful implementation of the elements of the government policy requires the widespread practice of democracy and commitment to that practice from the first step onward. The sources and results of mistakes and the responsibility for them should also be pinpointed, the paper adds.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the new national phase has turned into a reality following the announcement of the new government's policy statement on 30 March.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, in its editorial, says that the new government's work program entails great responsibilities as well as extraordinary and non-conventional efforts and continuous work.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasized that current circumstances allow little room for dithering or reluctance, for none of the Iraqis, officials and public, in various ranks and positions, have any spare time that can be wasted in making statements or in useless work that does not produce tangible, clear, and useful results to the entire public.

The newspaper says that time should be used for work. The public does not want a government to make statements or promises, but one that is dedicated to work and construction. Even more important is that the government should feel the sentiment of the ordinary people and behave seriously and diligently to accomplish what is useful to them. The basic needs of the Iraqis, the paper says, are too clear to be missed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the government work program is a balanced program and contains a logical and reasonable exposition of the public needs and the urgent priorities.

Baghdad Radio Sees Iranian Hand in 'Sabotage'

NC2903190191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1608 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Talk from "The Voice of the Peninsula and the Arab Gulf" program]

[Text] Perhaps we all have the right to ask ourselves: What was the objective of the adolescents and those who supported them in demolishing and sabotaging numerous official and popular landmarks during their celebration of the festival of plunder and theft which they staged in a number of cities in central and southern Iraq? Why did they focus on particular official departments which housed archives? What were they seeking by all this?

It is very appropriate to remember some past events. When foreign parties planned riots in Iraq in 1980 and instructed their followers to destroy and burn specific targets inside Iraq and assassinate some Iraqi officials, Iraq knew that the milieu in which these riotous acts were fostered was the Iranian community inside Iraq at that time. This is why Iraq (?deported) the members of that community [words indistinct] a number of officials in Iran are still making plans to restore the former status of the Iranian community so that they will be able to direct any group to carry out the task of plunder.

This is why the saboteurs and the [word indistinct] who participated in the plunder, theft, sabotage, and destruction made it their goal to burn documents proving home and vehicle ownership and every document that proves a person's place in society and his domicile. Thus (?the saboteurs burned) population and land registration departments, nationality and [word indistinct] departments [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct] as if there were an agreement between all these gunmen. The fact is that the agreement exists because one party has trained all of them to carry out these acts. This party is planning to exploit the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq in order to implement its vile objectives.

While we in Iraq proclaim our pain at what has happened, feelings of disgust seize us as we follow the news of the brutal crimes which those rabble-rousers and

saboteurs perpetrated, particularly the burning of documents. If those who carried out these acts believe that by doing so they will eliminate the differences between them and honorable Iraqi Muslims, they are deluding themselves. Whether a person belongs to his land is proved by permanent loyalty and [words indistinct]. While sabotage has damaged the documents that prove the nationality of Iraqis and their possessions, this sabotage has not given any of the foreigners coming across the border the rights that only Iraqis possess.

Gulf War Experience in Democratic Process Viewed

NC3103165791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] [Words indistinct] talk at this critical stage of the homeland's history is democracy and the need to learn the lesson of the oppressive imperialist-Zionist aggression against Iraq [words indistinct]. We conclude that the issue of democracy, and creating the atmosphere in which the people can freely express their views on everything that has to do with their social, political, and ideological affairs of life, has this time been linked with the experience of the war launched against Iraq by 30 countries.

Through this war, the United States, along with its allies and agents in the region, sought to destroy the revolutionary (?wind) embodied by the 17 July Revolution [words indistinct] 1968.

Previously, there was a need for a type of true democratic exercise [words indistinct] that expressed the true courses and choices (?created) by the revolution experience in the past few years. What happened, however, is that because of the circumstances of the direct and indirect aggression [words indistinct] imperialism and Zionist entity delayed adopting these basic choices, and work was most often confined to what the revolutionary establishments were doing to confront the transitional circumstances and emergency situations [words indistinct] did not always express the true democratic spirit that the country's leadership made one of its main concerns and a crucial choice in all of its courses and actions even in those situations which seemed [words indistinct] context and forms pertinent to full democratic life (?obstructed).

Now, with the current relentless determination and advance toward a democratic life and its advanced forms, this—as we explained—must not be separated from two things: First, the revolution experience has now reached an advanced stage in terms of time and diversity, so that it is no longer acceptable to wait any longer to implement a democracy in which people can exercise their freedom of choice and expression free of all forms of (?repression) [words indistinct] sufficient courage to [words indistinct] condemned phenomena and reject erroneous actions related to the state's position, organs, and [words indistinct].

Second, these measures come in the wake of the U.S.-Zionist aggression against our country and the subsequent attempts at subversion and penetration of national unity involving foreign parties alien to the homeland and to the Iraqi people's ambitions and true choices for freedom and for leading an independent life. This means that the democratic choice, which is currently being consolidated and entrenched—since it is a crucial choice in the life of the revolution—must entail certain characteristics that take into consideration the imperialist-Zionist aggression that targeted the Iraqi people and their political regime's existence, civlization, values, and principles.

Foreign Media Delegations Arrive in Baghdad

NC3003120591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—Delegations representing world television networks and foreign press have arrived in Baghdad at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

A source at the ministry's Information Department told INA that the delegations will see for themselves that life has returned to normal in a number of governorates that were the scene of acts of sabotage by misled gangs who are lackeys of the foreigners. The delegations will closely examine the collapse and elimination of sedition in the south and the purging of the Kurdish areas in the cherished north from the rancorous criminals.

University Classes To Resume 20 April

NC3103154091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—Classes at universities, colleges, and technical institutes will resume on 20 April.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd-al-Razzaq Qasim al-Hashimi, minister of higher education and scientific research, said the ministry has taken all preparations and steps to resume university studies. [passage omitted]

Ministerial Committee Issues New Defense Steps

TA3103170591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Report by Shlomo Raz]

[Text] The defense cabinet, or under its updated name, the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs, this afternoon decided to toughen Israel's policy concerning Arabs from the territories. Among the steps that will be taken, the following are worth noting:

The intention to increase deterrence has led to a policy of deporting inciters from the locations where murderers, knifers, and others emerged. The deportation punishment is considered especially effective. At the same time, the houses of those involved in the attacks will be demolished.

Supervision over the issue of licenses to work in Israel will be made very strict. A quota of licenses will be set, thus lowering the number of laborers from the territories within the Green Line boundaries. People with criminal or security records will not be given such entry permits.

Arabs from the territories will not be allowed to enter Israel with their privately owned cars; they may only use public transportation. Employers in Israel will be required to be more responsible, and will be asked not to employ laborers who do not have a license from the Israeli Employment Service.

As for the regulations on opening fire, during the discussion the ministers debated the effectiveness of the prevailing instructions by the defense authorities on opening fire. It seems that these regulations will remain in place.

The session lasted less than two hours, and the prime minister asked the ministers to keep their lips sealed.

New Security Steps 'Reasonable'

TA0204104891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The phenomenon of stabbings in Israel cannot be completely stopped, said Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein today. Some such incidents do happen, and they must be fought. The security forces are doing everything humanly possible to tackle the phenomenon. Our correspondent Uri Revah heard Elyaqim Rubinstein:

[Begin recording] [Revah] The security and police establishments' awareness of the problem, as manifested in intensive deliberations, is translated into means to reduce the stabbings to the minimum possible. This was stated today by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. He was asked: Can the stabbings be stopped altogether?

[Rubinstein] I do not believe anyone can imagine that stabbing incidents can be eliminated completely, because you cannot place everyone under security protection. Still, we believe that the incidence of these cases can be reduced. Naturally, one must bear in mind that everything that can be done will be done.

[Revah] The cabinet secretary addressed U.S. complaints about the restrictions Israel imposed on the residents of the territories. He said that the bottom line is that they signify security.

[Rubinstein] Israel would have been happy if the occasional expressions of violence in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza did not exist, if the crossings could be open and there were no security problems. All in all, the measures Israel has taken, which are reasonable, are not intended to affect the individual who goes to his daily workplace or his family. We want people to live as normally as possible.

[Revah] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein was speaking during a tour of the Sharon District. [end recording]

Shamir: U.S. Issues 'Hasty Reaction'

TA0204112591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the U.S. statement condemning the government's recent actions in the territories is a hasty reaction to inaccurate reports. Shamir asserted that this has no connection with the peace process. If the violence stops, there will be no more deportations; however, this has nothing to do with the process.

Our correspondent Mira 'Amsalem reports that Shamir, speaking at an impromptu news conference at the Saharani festivities held by the Kurdish-Iranian community at 'En Hemed, added that the joint declaration by the Syrian and Egyptian presidents, in which they advocate holding an international conference, does not obligate Israel. An understanding with us must be reached before anything else, Shamir said. [passage omitted]

Unnamed Officials Comment

TA0204045991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The State Department in Washington has criticized Israel's decision to impose new restrictions on Palestinian residents of the territories. [passage omitted]

In reaction, officials in Jerusalem say the government is not discussing the implementation of new measures, but rather broadening the use of current methods to reduce terrorism. These include further restricting the entry of Palestinians from the territories into Israel, deportations, and the demolition or sealing of the homes of terrorists.

Health Minister on Differences With U.S.

TA0204062091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Gay Zohar and Orly Yaniv—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Minister Ehud Olmert.

[Olmert] Good morning.

[Zohar] THE WALL STREET JOURNAL wrote yesterday that the short honeymoon between Bush and Shamir or in U.S.-Israeli relations is over. Should the U.S. statement [criticizing Israel's decision to broaden restrictions on Palestinians in territories] be seen in this context?

[Olmert] Let me just say that the media—and I am not criticizing them—sometimes tend to popularize and personalize international processes. Certain things are presented as private honeymoons or the absence of such. I think such descriptions are out of place. The relationship between the prime minister of Israel and the President of the United States is not that of a couple of buddies who mess around with private matters. Each man represents the outlook of his country and acts accordingly. There has been no significant change in this regard over the last week.

[Zohar] And following the decision of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs? After all, we knew that the United States is against deportations and condemns this policy. Was its reaction what we expected, or was it more or less severe than anticipated?

[Olmert] First of all, I believe that the ministerial committee's decision does not constitute what is known as an escalatory step in the measures the security forces have been ordered to take. Basically, these are just a series of measures—in my opinion, the most effective that can be taken in the given situation—which remain within the same framework of steps we have already adopted in the past. Therefore, the decision itself cannot serve as any grounds for a change in the U.S. attitude. We know that the United States in principle does not like deportations. Incidentally, we do not like deportations either. That is why we do not implement comprehensive or mass deportations of people from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. What we do is take individual action against specific people against whom we have evidence—evidence that can stand up before the High Court of Justice. Every case—and this is something we do not normally emphasize—can be brought before the High Court of Justice. We gave the residents of the territories this right, which is not automatic and is actually not unequivocally theirs according to our interpretation of international law.

[Zohar] There is some fundamental disagreement between Israel and the United States on how international law should be interpreted. They say that deportations are illegal according to the Geneva Convention.

[Olmert] That is true; there is an argument. It is not between the Israeli and U.S. Governments, however. Strictly speaking, it is between the Israeli Supreme Court and the United States. The Supreme Court ruled that while the Fourth Geneva Convention, which deals with human rights, defines mass deportations as illegal, according to the ruling of our Supreme Court, one may deport people on an individual basis when there is evidence of behavior that constitutes a violation of certain things on which the court is authorized to rule. The U.S. Administration is not happy with this ruling. I have more than once told my friends in the United States: Listen, this is not just some government decision; you have your way of seeing things, and our court interprets things differently. Do you expect the Israeli Government to act according to your interpretation, which differs with the Israeli Supreme Court, or according to Jerusalem's ruling? We still live according to the rulings of our Supreme Court.

[Zohar] Going back to the political aspect: U.S. Secretary of State Baker has been quoted as saying—or, more accurately, this was leaked from a meeting Baker held with European officials—that Israel's political moves are only meant to gain time until the elections in November 1992.

[Olmert] I find it hard to believe that Mr. Baker made these remarks. I find it improbable and incompatible with his intelligence and understanding of the moves and of relations with the State of Israel. We do not want to drag things out until the elections. That is not a consideration. We do not delude ourselves that the problems we must face will disappear after the elections. We are facing a very clear and very difficult situation.

[Zohar] But you can understand why he might be disappointed with the fact that Israel has not made any conciliatory gestures—even just on the face of things—to the Palestinians in the current new situation.

[Olmert] Look, if I were in his shoes, I might be able to understand; the fact is, however, that I am in my shoes, not his. The problems I must face are not the same ones he has to cope with. We have daily security problems. People are getting killed because someone takes a knife and uses it against civilians. A response to this phenomenon must be found. I must stress that this response—and I am convinced that this is the opinion held by all the cabinet ministers—does not constitute an alternative to a political process. No one is deluding himself that the conflict can be resolved in a nonpolitical manner. We are not discussing the resolution of the conflict, however. We are talking about ways to counter the threat of terrorism against people and civilians in Israeli cities. We must come up with a response to this. With all due respect to Baker, he is not the man responsible for coming up with the answer, nor can he offer any solution to this! We are the ones who must come up with the answer! Therefore, we may occasionally have to take certain measures that are not exactly delicate or pleasant. Need anyone remind us that they are not so pleasant? Do

we not know this? In this kind of war, however, one cannot always behave nicely. It is sad and tragic, but those who initiate this kind of terrorism should also bear that in mind.

[Zohar] We really hope that they have at least heard your statements. Thank you very much, Minister Olmert.

Shamir Sees Changes if State of War Ends

TA0204101391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that if the Arabs were to agree to end the state of war with Israel, we would want not only to move toward peace but also to bring about some far-reaching changes within its framework, such as reductions in conventional and nonconventional weapons.

In a meeting with U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, Shamir said that it was sad to see how Saddam Husayn continues to run amok and slaughter his people in northern and southern Iraq while the world remains silent and does nothing. This only serves to emphasize how unstable our region is and how difficult it is to achieve peace.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz points out that Senator Lautenberg said that Israel's standing in the United States has greatly improved and that now is the time to move forward toward peace.

Jerusalem 'Very Skeptical' About Syrian Attitude

TA0204103891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Political and defense sources in Israel are concerned about the plan currently being discussed between the United States and the Arab states according to which the pan-Arab policing force to be deployed in the Gulf—which will include Syrian units—will be armed with sophisticated U.S. weaponry.

Sources in Jerusalem said that as part of the discussions on the international force to be deployed along the Saudi-Iraqi border, a proposal was raised to transfer part of the equipment used by the U.S. Armed Forces in the war with Iraq to the Egyptian and Syrian units to be deployed in the region after the Americans withdraw. The sources said that Israel is concerned by the arming of the Syrians, especially the training of Syrian forces in sophisticated weaponry—some of which Israel, too, possesses—and the transfer of know-how about the arms to the Syrian Army.

The sources reported that arrangements for the border area with Iraq have not yet been finalized. Nevertheless, the United States is leaning toward permanently stationing at least part of the military command (CENTCOM) that directed Operation Desert Storm in Bahrain.

The United States is considering how to cope with the large expenditures involved in withdrawing the huge military inventories built up in Saudi Arabia and is thinking of stockpiling U.S. equipment in emergency warehouses along the border area with Iraq and transferring equipment to the Arab policing force.

Jerusalem continues to be very skeptical about the Syrian stand, even in the wake of the meetings between President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Cairo yesterday. It has been learned that intelligence elements recently warned the government that the Syrian announcements about readiness to form peaceful relations with Israel are merely "cosmetics" aimed at covering up the buildup of the Syrian Army.

After assessing Secretary Baker's Middle East tour and his talks with al-Asad, U.S. officials say that they have found "a certain openness" in Syria toward the political process. In talks with their Israeli counterparts, however, these officials do not point to specific points on which the Syrians positions have become more flexible.

In Jerusalem, on the other hand, intelligence elements believe that Syria has not changed its basic stands one iota and that, on the contrary, there has been a regression in one Syrian position. They said that Syria continues to stick to the idea of an imposed international conference and total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, while in return it is willing to promise only a declaration about ending the state of war with Israel. The Syrians recently added an additional precondition: that the Palestinian problem be solved first.

It should be pointed out that intelligence elements believe that Syria is very pleased with its situation in the wake of the Gulf crisis and that it wants to maintain its current position in the West by making, among other things, what seem to be conciliatory declarations toward Israel. Nevertheless, Syria invested most of the $3 billion aid it received in return for its participation in the Gulf war to procure new arms, including Scud-C surface-to-surface missiles.

Israeli experts believe that in the wake of the Iraqi Army's defeat and the internal situation in that country, Syria must now step up its efforts to achieve "strategic parity" and to make up for the loss of the "Iraqi strategic rear," which was supposed to bolster the eastern front against Israel during the war. Syria also believes that following its participation in the pan-Arab policing force, it will obtain further generous aid, which it also plans to invest in its military buildup, according to the experts.

Sinyurah on Political Initiatives in Territories

TA0104112091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor in chief, by 'Abd-al-Wahab Zahdah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zahdah] A number of individuals have raised political initiatives for a settlement, some of which have been published in AL-FAJR. Do you favor this development and what do you think about the initiatives emanating from inside the territories?

[Sinyurah] The young Palestinians should be given the opportunity to voice their views. Palestinian figures who appear on television are constantly being criticized. Within the context of this initiative, undertaken by young people concerned about the fate of their homeland and about their future, AL-FAJR provided the opportunity for these young people to engage in a dialogue through the pages of the newspaper, so that they could present their views on various topics, including elections.

[Zahdah] Do you not believe that this may be to the benefit of the territories while coming at the expense of the Palestinian representation abroad?

[Sinyurah] I do not believe so. It will primarily come at the expense of those nationalist Palestinian figures who do not have a popular base. This initiative grants the Palestinian people inside the territories the right to choose whomever they want and the opportunity to speak on their own behalf. At the same time, it is meant to create stronger bonds between the people, those individuals who deal with daily affairs, and the PLO. More than anything else, it is aimed at cohesion and the consolidation of relations. It does not, as some claim and pretend, seek to create alternatives. There are no alternatives for the Palestinian people; there is a constant insistence that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people.

[Zahdah] There is talk of going back to the Jordanian-Palestinian initiative of May 1985 and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to an international conference. Do you support such new proposals?

[Sinyurah] Jordan disengaged from the occupied territories during the intifadah. The Palestinian people have a representative: the PLO. We believe that a close relationship will be established after the founding of the state of Palestine.

[Zahdah] Were Jordan to restore its links, would you approve of this?

[Sinyurah] History does not repeat itself. Now we are at the stage where the Palestinian people have seized the initiative. We aspire to consolidate ties with all neighbors and states in the future. We believe that there is a close relationship between Palestine and Jordan based on the Palestine National Council resolutions.

Barriers on Most Imports To Be Lifted 1 Sep

TA0204091991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 91 p 6

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpts] After seven long months of debate, government officials have set September 1, 1991, as the date that Israel's administrative trade barriers will finally come crashing down.

On that date, administrative trade restrictions, such as licensing requirements, will be eliminated on most imports. Instead, they will be replaced by customs taxes of a maximum of 75 percent, which will gradually be reduced, over a five- to seven-year period, to a maximum rate of 12 percent for finished products, and 8 percent for raw materials.

However, "sensitive" items, such as textiles, clothing and wood products, would receive special treatment. In effect, liberalization of trade on these items will only begin one year later, on September 1, 1992.

The program refers solely to imports from "third countries"; that is, countries other than the United States and the members of the European Community. Israel has a free-trade agreement with the U.S. and the EC, and imports from these countries are not restricted. [passage omitted]

Loud protests were heard from both the Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association, following the government's announcement yesterday. "This is a wretched decision that has no economic, social, or moral justification in our current situation," Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar charged yesterday. He warned that the decision could bring about a disaster for the economy, and cause thousands of workers to lose their jobs.

Manufacturers Association chairman Dov Lautman agreed with Qeysar's assessment that the plan would lead to a gradual process of lay-offs in industry, and an increase in the ranks of the unemployed. He added that the trade-liberalization plan would only be beneficial if taken as part of "a wider program."

Government Plan Backs Investment in Territories

TA0104081891 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Gilat]

[Excerpts] During the past few days, the Israeli Government has been encouraging investments in economic projects for the welfare of the Palestinian residents of the territories. It is possible that Israeli money will be invested there as early as in the next few weeks.

A plan prepared by the Economics and Planning Ministry under Minister David Magen and in cooperation with the Defense Ministry stipulates that the state should create 30,000 jobs in the territories. [passage omitted)

For the past few weeks, a defense establishment team, which includes Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, and Salay Meridor,

Defense Minister Arens' political adviser, has been preparing a comprehensive plan to change the economic, social, and political situation in the territories. This plan also calls for elections, but the government has not yet approved them. That is why the heads of the defense establishment have been making reserved remarks on the issue. [passage omitted]

It is hoped that the Saudis will invest money in the development of projects in the territories, which would strengthen those leaders who would initiate and operate those projects and who could become the Palestinian partners in negotiations with Israel in the future.

The defense establishment views favorably the investment of Saudi monies in the territories, particularly in view of the recent Saudi and Kuwaiti announcement that they will not funnel money to the PLO and Jordan because of the stand they took during the Gulf war.

The intention to create jobs for Palestinians in the territories corresponds to the possible creation of a leadership that would cooperate more with Israel.

IDF Not Leaving Camps; Other Steps Noted

TA2903133991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 91 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The defense establishment will free hundreds of intifadah detainees over the coming weeks as a unilateral step.

The release of such a large number of detainees comes as part of a trend currently being consolidated by the defense establishment calling for a "two-track" approach to the territories; or in other words, employing harsh measures against hardcore intifadah activists, while at the same time adopting measures to make life significantly easier on the populace.

The intention is to use this policy to deliver the clear message that Israel will show readiness to move toward a political dialogue with the residents of the territories, but that progress will be made conditional on the good behavior of the populace and a reduction in the level of violence.

The measures already planned include a decision to reopen gradually the universities in the territories. The continuation of this process will depend on the result the renewal of studies will have on the level of violence.

Within the framework of the policy currently being prepared by the defense establishment, the possibility of holding municipal elections in the territories is also being considered. The municipal elections would constitute a preparatory step for the general elections stipulated in the government's May 1989 peace initiative.

Contrary to reports that were published yesterday, there is no intention whatsoever to withdraw from the refugee camps unilaterally or to pull the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of them.

Sources in the defense establishment yesterday made it clear that there would be no logic in such a step. "If the IDF pulls out of the refugee camps they will become a hotbed of agitation and the resulting violence will spread," the sources claimed.

The defense establishment intends to continue to carry out deportations, on the assumption that this is the most effective and deterring punishment. The guiding principle in choosing whom to deport, as formulated by the Defense Ministry, rules that Israel will deport activists and inciters from the same towns, villages, or refugee camps that subsequently generate murderers, as well as those involved in the murder of collaborators.

Further Incidents in Territories Reported

One Killed, Four Injured, Curfews

TA0104101091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and ITIM]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Iyad 'Abd-al-Raziq, 17, from the Tulkarm refugee camp, was killed during a violent clash in the camp yesterday. Military sources reported that yesterday afternoon, the youth attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier on patrol in the camp with an iron bar and slightly injured him. The soldier shot at the assailant, injuring him in the shoulder. The youth managed to escape, but during the ensuing chase he climbed a three-meter wall and fell from it. He was taken to the Tulkarm hospital, where he died of his wounds. Palestinian sources claimed yesterday that the man was shot in the stomach and died of this wound. The IDF imposed a curfew on the refugee camp after the incident.

Last night, the IDF imposed curfews on the villages of 'Attil, Salfit, and Zayta, north of Ramallah, following an attempt to murder a local resident suspected of collaboration. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources claimed that yesterday in Janin, IDF soldiers exchanged shots with Palestinians wanted by the security forces. The IDF imposed a curfew on parts of the city. This report has not been confirmed.

The curfew imposed on Nabulus and the refugee camps in its vicinity was lifted yesterday, but remains in effect in Ya'bad, Baqah al-Sharqiyah, Haris, Biddiyah, Za'tarah, and the refugee camps of al-Duhayshah, al-'Awdah, and al-'Azza.

In clashes with the IDF in the Gaza Strip yesterday, four Arab residents were injured.

Two firebombs thrown at an IDF patrol in Gaza yesterday caused no damage and no casualties.

Two Arabs Killed for Collaboration

TA0204053391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpt] In the territories, two residents suspected of cooperating with the authorities have been murdered by fellow Arabs, and a Gaza resident has died of gunshot wounds sustained a month ago in unclear circumstances. Mark Weiss reports:

Thirty-three-year-old Qalqilyah resident Ibrahim Najim was shot dead by unknown assailants last night as he stood outside his home. Local residents said the man was probably shot because he was suspected of cooperating with the authorities. The victim was a former security detainee released in the Ahmad Jibril prisoner exchange.

In Tulkarm yesterday, a local resident tried to attack a group of soldiers that were guarding the Interior Ministry office in the town. The commanding officer fired a number of shots at the attacker, but he managed to escape.

In the Gaza Strip, 55-year-old Rafah resident Frayj Abu-Jarida has been murdered. Local residents said the man was suspected of cooperating with the authorities.

In the Gaza city al-Shifa' Hospital, 27-year-old 'Awwad Abu-Lahiya, from the Gaza village of Qarawah, has died from gunshot wounds sustained a month ago. The police and Civil Administration are investigating the circumstances of the shooting. Local residents claim he was shot by Israeli civilians after Palestinians threw stones at an Israeli car in the Strip. [passage omitted]

Data on Israeli, Palestinian Intifadah Fatalities

TA0204105691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] According to data supplied by the Betzelem Information Center, eight Palestinians were killed by the security forces in March 1991: five in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip. Among the fatalities in the Gaza Strip were two youths aged 13 and 16. An Israeli civilian was killed in the territories, apparently by shots fired by Palestinians.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency, four Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the authorities were killed in March.

Within the Green Line, five Israeli civilians were stabbed to death by Palestinian residents of the territories.

Since the start of the intifadah and up to March 1991, 750 Palestinians were killed by the security forces. Of these, 723 were killed by live ammunition—including plastic and rubber bullets—and 27 from other causes (beatings, burn injuries, etc.) Of the fatalities, 159 were children: 44 up to the age of 12 and 115 between the ages of 13 and 16.

At least 85 people died a short time after exposure to tear gas, 30 of them babies. From a medical viewpoint, it is difficult to point to exposure to tear gas as a direct and sole cause of death.

Another 37 Palestinians were apparently killed by Israeli civilians, and 10 by people suspected of being collaborators.

During the intifadah, Palestinians killed 13 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and 13 Israeli civilians, including three babies. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS, 349 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the authorities were killed in the territories since the start of the intifadah.

According to the IDF spokesman, 32 Israeli civilians, four tourists, and six members of the security forces were killed within the Green Line by Palestinian residents of the territories during that period. At least 16 Palestinians from the territories were killed by Israeli civilians and one by shots fired by a policeman.

GCC Aid Halt Shows Gulf Admiration for Israel

NC0104153091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
1 Apr 91 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "From the U.S. Senate to the Gulf Cooperation Council"]

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] decision to suspend financial aid to Jordan and the PLO is considered a practical expression of harmony with oneself and a return to the origin following a brief period of exception. We therefore do not consider this a hostile stance. The aid that used to be extended to us and to the Palestinians was not a revolutionary stance by the Council. The Gulf aid to our country and people enabled us to build and stand fast in the face of the Zionist wave of expansion. We do not think that continuing this steadfastness is a point of concern for the Gulf cooperators. The preparation for the aggression on Iraq witnessed countless indications of Gulf admiration of the Israeli enemy. The period of aggression and the annihilation war launched by the allied forces on the Iraqi people saw widespread praise of the Israeli position. Countless voices were raised to express Gulf gratitude to this position, and called for consolidating Gulf- Israeli relations on the basis of joint hostility toward Arabism, Islam, Arabs, and poor Muslims, and joint hostility toward placing Arab oil in the service of progress, democracy, and comprehensive unity.

The GCC sought to portray Gulf aid to Jordan and Palestine as an act of charity, without pointing out that this aid is a form of support that was agreed on by the Arab summit institution. Based on sincerity and commitment to the resolutions of this summit, the aggression on the Iraqi people should not be justified on the one hand by the Arab summit resolutions and the inevitability of abiding by them, while on the other hand aid is suspended without referring to the summit institution. We have no doubt that the GCC decision is a U.S. one in the successive series of Washington decisions to pressure us and the Palestinian people to serve the interests of the Zionst enemy. The GCC "decision" came a few days after the U.S. Senate decision to cut off aid to us! Thus, we find ourselves targeted by U.S. democracy and Gulf democracy, although we have no religious or national ties with the Americans.

It is ridiculous that the GCC decision was accompanied by threats and promises. Such language is ridiculous, since in past months hundreds of billions were spent on armies, and it became apparent that the GCC could not but call on Washington to carry out what its barbaric forces committed against the Iraqi people. The GCC declares that it will neither forgive us nor forget our stance. Our responsible pan-Arab stance raised the "brothers'" indignation against us, and succeeded in exposing all that had been covered. As for forgiveness, only God can forgive, judge, punish, and give every party its real size, whether rich or poor, oil-producing or principled, and whether with the homeland or against it.

We were not aggrieved by the GCC decision. We sympathize with those who made this decision, however, because not a single fig leaf is left to cover that body. This decision stressed that those who halt aid Jordan and the steadfastness of Palestine have transferred their aid to the Zionist enemy. The next step will be a decision similar to that of the U.S. Congress—declaring the GCC's readiness to finance settlements for the Zionist immigrants on Arab soil.

France Urged To Play 'Effective' Mideast Role

NC3003175791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
30 Mar 91 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Visit and France's Expected Role"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to France, and Jordan's active, quiet diplomatic move over the past few days, including the foreign minister's tour of a number of Arab capitals in particular, and the visit to the United States by his majesty's political adviser all point to the balanced and principled role being played by Jordan in efforts to solve the problems in the region and seriously search for a just and lasting peace.

The success of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to France, with which Jordan maintains friendly relations and mutual respect, is clear evidence of his majesty's wisdom, perspicacity, and precise knowledge of the keys to the aspired political solution.

The statements made by his majesty after his talks with the French president reflected the warm positive atmosphere that prevailed in the talks as well as the spirit of optimism his majesty had when he described his meeting with President Mitterrand as "the most successful one between the two leaders." This clearly indicates that the proposals his majesty made during the talks were fully understood by President Mitterrand.

As noted by His Majesty King Husayn's statements, the talks dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, Jordan's basic role in the peace process, and the need to implement international legitimacy in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with the same standard used to apply the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf issue.

It was natural for the two leaders to deal with the Gulf situation, the tragic results of the destructive war on the region, and Iraq in particular, ways to eliminate these results, and efforts to bridge the wide gap that was created between the Arabs and the West by the unjust war against Iraq.

It is no secret that Jordan adopted a frank and clear position from the beginning of the crisis. It rejected the war and searched for a peaceful solution. Therefore, Jordan paid a high price for its principled position.

The tragic events have proved the sound, principled Jordanian position over which there could be no bargaining. It is the principle that has always made Jordanians "hold their heads high," as His Majesty King Husayn asserted in his statements yesterday. There are constants in Jordan's policy that cannot be relinquished under any circumstances whatsoever regardless of the pressures and difficulties.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to France constitutes a valuable opportunity for President Mitterrand's government to restore its good reputation and respect in the Arab homeland by playing an effective role in finding a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict based on international legitimacy and the same standard used in the Gulf. France is also required to contribute toward eliminating the traces of the destructive war and to resist the pressures being put on it by the United States in the name of international legitimacy, with which Iraq has fully complied.

Minister's Segregation of Sexes Criticized

JN0204112991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Anti-Social Development"]

[Text] The devil, made of unseen material, has always been seen as the supreme spirit of evil and a leader of all apostate angels. Being deprived of a certain abode, he chooses the most weird and loathsome of places in which to play his tricks and practise his wickedness. In fact the devil resides everywhere; not least in the soul of each human being. To lock a man and a woman in a room and suspect the devil will be there is plausible. But if the two are working in an office, providing services to the people, then the devil's presence must be somewhat in question. Thus, the decision by the most honourable Minister of Social Development to segregate sexes at his ministry can only be viewed as a step backward in a country that for decades has been striving to realise equality between the sexes. Segregation, after all, is a form of racism. Moreover, it is an offence against people's basic rights as equals in the workplace a well as in the eyes of the law. The respected minister's argument that the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, had ordained segregation is not entirely true. Women during the early days of Islam not only mingled with men and did what men did, they even fought alongside them in battle. The prophet preached modesty and chastity in appearance and in intentions, two qualities that no forced segregation can enforce. What is more dangerous than the issue of segregation is the call by many fundamentalists to bar women from work altogether. That would take Jordan or any other place for that matter back into the dark ages; and we need not look far around us to see how awful the situation of women in so-called conservative societies really is.

There are many ways to keep the devil out. But segregation alone is certainly not one of them. If anything, evil can find more fertile ground in wretchedness, ignorance and deprivation.

In fact, it can be argued that socially at least, more open societies have done better than closed ones. A relatively devil-free, healthy life does not base itself on old myths. It only develops in societies of equality, authenticity and highly intellectual life. Besides, wrong are those who claim higher moral authority for themselves and not others, regardless of who they are.

Were those men and women at the ministry asked if they wanted to mingle or separate? Have we not, at this late hour, discovered that authoritarianism only brings disaster? And that the road to salvation does not lie in restricting personal freedoms and human rights?

The government of Mr. Mudar Badran has a duty to upgrade the performance of ministers or officials who are not contributing to improving the quality of life in the Kingdom.

It has a greater responsibility still to rein in those who are starting a slide. The last thing our social development needs is someone who is unaware that segregation is wrong, counterproductive and an obstacle to our progress.

Iranian Envoy on Hostages, Israeli Withdrawal

NC0204110191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Mohammad Javad Zamaniyan, Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon, has said that it is naive to rely on international diplomatic resolutions to secure the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy's forces from the territories they control in the south.

In an interview, Zamaniyan said that the facts require that diplomatic action exploit as far as possible the pressure applied by the popular armed resistance on the occupying enemy. He said that the popular armed resistance can play the most important, strongest, and most effective role in the effort to expel the enemy forces from Palestine and southern Lebanon.

Zamaniyan explained that his country does not, at any rate, recognize a country called Israel in the region's political and geographic map. He added that Iran views the way in which the Zionist entity is being dealt with as naive and stupid.

The Iranian charge d'affaires added that Iran and Syria have close and strong ties in all spheres. Noting that it is natural for the two countries to exchange views on basic issues connected with regional events, Zamaniyan commented on the issue of the hostages in Lebanon. He said: With regard to the Western foreign diplomats [as heard] who were kidnapped in Lebanon and the other Iranian hostages detained in Lebanon, Iran has made numerous efforts to secure their release.

Zamaniyan revealed that Iran had submitted official requests to ministers, including Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Justice Minister Khatchig Babikian, to make the necessary efforts, based on their official responsibility, with regard to the Iranians in Lebanon. He said he hoped the Lebanese state's reply on this issue and, consequently, the determination of the fate of the Iranian diplomats who have been missing since 1982, will be a good opportunity to promote the relationship between Lebanon and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Others Cited on Hostage Release

NC0104102891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] REUTER quotes a Syrian source as saying that the ordeal of the Western hostages has ended and that the issue now is only a matter of timing. The Syrian source added that the quick disbanding of militias in Lebanon is linked to a quick resolution of the hostage issue.

REUTER quotes an Italian diplomat in Damascus as saying that the Iranian leaders informed the Italian foreign minister in Tehran last week that all hostages will be freed soon.

Buwayz on Military Ties With Palestinians

NC0104190391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that Lebanon is optimistic about the possibility that the United States will bring pressure to bear on Israel to implement the resolutions pertaining to the crises in the region and have it participate in a just, peaceful solution.

Minister Buwayz said he believes the Arab atmopshere is now more propitious than at any time before for the acceptance of a peaceful solution, and that Israeli public opinion is inclined toward this option more than in the past. Minister Buwayz said: Our relations with the Palestinian brothers in Lebanon cannot be at the expense of Lebanon and its dignity. He added: We are ready to discuss some form of a social and humanitarian relationship, and maybe a political one, but the discussion of military relations is out of the question.

Minister Buwayz said negotiations are under way with the Palestinians in the south through many channels first of all to have them join the plan to disband militias and the military organizations—a plan that includes non-Lebanese groups—and ameliorate the situation in the south; and second, to pave the way for the implementation of Resolution 425. The key concerning the security situation in the south is Israel's withdrawal.

Minister Buwayz made these statements in an interview with the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper to be published tomorrow.

Palestinians Must Give Up Weapons

NC0104224791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has stated that the al-Ta'if accord stipulates that Lebanese and non-Lebanese organizations must hand over their weapons to the Lebanese state within a six-month period. He added: Therefore, no party, particularly a non-Lebanese one, can ignore the cabinet decision and refuse to hand over its weapons. We will not accept the establishment of an armed state within the Lebanese state. The way to reach this is through dialogue and understanding in the first stage so that the weapons can be handed over within the period that expires at the end of April 1991. Whoever refuses to implement the government decision will be firmly confronted. The Lebanese state has enough strength and Arab support to enable it to implement its decision by all available means.

Al-Murr said: The excuse that Palestinian weapons must be kept under the pretext of liberating Palestine is false because weapons have not liberated a single inch of Palestinian soil but have destroyed Lebanon and displaced the Lebanese from their lands.

PLO Official Reacts

NC0204082391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Fathi al-'Arbadat, secretary of the PLO factions in southern Lebanon, has commented on statements by some circles within the Lebanese Government with regard to the camps and the Palestinian situation. He said: If people are saying they want to implement the decisions that were made during the rule of Amin al-Jumayyil, which prevent Palestinians from pursuing 40 professions and permit them to make decisions in one area only, namely the establishment of a refugee affairs department, we say that this shows a mistaken understanding of matters and will not help to establish positive relations with the Palestinians.

He added: We understand our right to open a Palestinian embassy in Beirut, participate in the national effort to liberate the south, and maintain contacts with the intifadah.

Fadlallah Cited on Current Developments

NC0104085491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has maintained that all that has taken place in greater Beirut and southern Lebanon has not brought Lebanon closer to a solution. He added that all the measures taken there are only meant to cool the situation. He went on to say that all the disputes which manifested themselves on Lebanese territory had regional and international rather than domestic dimensions.

In an interview given to the magazine AL-HAWADITH, al-Sayyid Fadlallah affirmed that the United States does not want to see anybody preoccupied with his problems in a such a way that could confuse its international moves. He added: It does not want anybody in the region to preoccupy himself with any flash point other than the Gulf crisis. Hence, the greater Beirut plan came to cool the climate. The problems faced during the implementation of this plan have failed to cause a new war among the Lebanese parties. Had these problems emerged under different circumstances, they would have caused several wars.

His eminence went on to say: The deployment of the army in southern Lebanon was neither meant to be a step conducive to implementing Resolution 425 nor to create a new Lebanese political situation. Rather, this move was part of an international and Arab plan to control Palestinian moves and to prevent these moves from confusing the plans drawn up for the region.

Al-Sayyid Fadlallah said: The Lebanese policy has always opposed any violence against Israel. Hence, Lebanon's real official policy opposes any form of resistance. When we follow the statements made by the current government and president, which are not meant for domestic consumption, we find that a senior official is asking the resistance men to carry out their resistance activities outside Lebanon. Even if some officials make statements expressing support for resistance for domestic consumption, Lebanon's policy remains opposed to this. But it remains to be said that the resistance, which aims to liberate the lands from occupation, neither waits for an endorsement from anybody nor for a presidential decree.

Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid Reportedly To Visit

NC0104115091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] It has been learned that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, foreign minister of the Egyptian regime, will pay an extended visit to Beirut in the next few weeks to hold a series of talks with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and a number of Lebanese officials on the latest developments in Lebanon and Egyptian-Lebanese relations. 'Abd-al-Majid's expected visit to Lebanon has been commissioned by President Husni Mubarak. It aims to promote Egyptian-Lebanese relations and strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Return From Cairo Visit

NC0104160291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to the homeland this afternoon following a two-day visit to Cairo during which he held talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned with the president.

Commentary on Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks

NC0204145891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Cairo talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak have been the focus of attention in political and media circles because of the great role being played by both countries in bringing Arabs together, developing proper solidarity, activating collective Arab-action institutions, and helping the countries in the region overcome the destructive effects of the Gulf war.

Observers viewed the Arab leaders' meeting and the positive results achieved for pan-Arab issues as a continuation of the efforts the two leaders made before the Gulf crisis to develop a united and effective Arab stand capable of coping with the international changes and countering the serious challenges facing the Arab nation.

Through their firm stand vis-a-vis the devastation of Kuwait, the two fraternal countries, Syria and Egypt, embodied their commitment to Arab and international charters and principles, a stand appreciated by the governments and peoples of the world. This stand gives more weight to the sincere Arab viewpoint at a time when attention is being focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict and when voices are demanding the implementation of the UN resolutions on the Palestinian problem and the occupied Arab territories. International laws cannot be applied in one place and ignored in another. There is a world force calling for the establishment of a real and comprehensive peace and for people to tackle the hot issues in a positive and constructive spirit, a move which endorses declared charters and principles.

Now that the Gulf crisis has ended and Kuwait has been returned to its people and its legitimate government, there will be no excuse for anyone who fails to tackle the most serious crisis: namely, the Middle East crisis, which has gone on for over 40 years due to Israeli aggressiveness, its refusal to abide by international resolutions, and its defiance of the international will to establish a just and lasting peace and to guarantee freedom for the Palestinian people, a people crushed by the occupation.

Indeed, there is an active movement to implement the UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 344, which call for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and for exchanging land for peace within the framework of an international conference. In the meantime, Israel has activated its organization and known forces of pressure to abort and circumvent this serious endeavor by rejecting ideas. Israel's only aim is to divide the conflict by holding partial and independent negotiations. Previous experience has shown that this tactic does not lead to peace.

It is natural to say that tackling a serious issue like the Arab-Israeli conflict requires a responsible and united Arab stand that rises to the level of the serious challenges. This is what Syria and Egypt are trying to work out. The Damascus Declaration on how to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and ways to develop effective solidarity was a giant pan-Arab step in the right direction to provide a better future for Arabs.

It is equally natural that emphasizing national principles, rejecting partial solutions, insisting on a just and comprehensive solution, cutting short any attempt to monopolize the decisionmaking process, and aborting Israel's attempts to find gaps in the Arab structure were all discussed extensively between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak. This is particularly so because the atmosphere is favorable for a just and comprehensive settlement and because the international community, primarily the United States, is committed to work seriously toward such a settlement. The issue of the international peace conference and effective Arab solidarity was at the core of the two Arab leaders' talks, as demonstrated at their press conference.

Helping the Arab nation recover after the painful shock in the Gulf, reviving efforts toward solidarity, rejuvenating joint action on a proper basis, eliminating any monopoly over momentous decisions, is a higher national task which Damascus and Egypt are undertaking with a view to protecting the Arab nation's future. This task can only be completed by clearing the air and urging brothers to resume the joint march in the framework of a sound and clear pan-Arab vision.

It is true that our Arab nation has gone through several calamities, the last of which was the Gulf war. However, our nation has enough energies, capabilities, powers, and sincere and truthful voices to stand up and face its enemies effectively and successfully.

Press on Outcome of Summit

NC0204065591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Cairo Summit and Effective Arab Solidarity," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Our nation, throughout its modern history, has never been in such need of solidarity, cohesion, and unity of joint action as it is today. Our nation is living through a new era in which it must almost prove its very existence, with a hint of the axiomatic question: To be or not to be?

AL-BA'TH adds: The world is moving steadily toward laying foundations of peace and stability, in various ways. This is taking place through detente and regional and international cooperation to achieve the national interests of participating countries. Meanwhile, the Arab nation has, until very recently, been prey to fragmentation and on the receiving end of international repercussions caused by a changed world, and by the foolish acts and fatal mistakes of the Iraqi regime.

AL-BA'TH says: The barbaric invasion caused great damage to both the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people and dealt a severe blow to Arab relations and to the practices of solidarity and working together that our masses want as the firm foundation for their much-desired unity.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The Damascus-Cairo meeting was not in any way an ordinary one, for Syria and Egypt are the body and soul of the nation, the two countries that have borne the responsibility for meeting the challenges under the most difficult and hardest circumstances. The Arab situation now calls for further steps toward effective solidarity, a solidarity achieved by leader al-Asad before and after the liberation war of October [1973]. We must achieve that solidarity now in this phase in which the Arabs should strive to prove their very existence.

Under the headlines "Successful and Fruitful Visit," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Leader al-Asad's important visit to Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak represent a great step in Syrian efforts to rectify the Arab situation and revive Arab solidarity in a way that would serve the interests and pan-Arab causes of the Arab nation. It is evident that Syrian-Egyptian cooperation is the cornerstone of that cooperation. The Arab world has just emerged from the most serious crisis in its recent history and is now standing on the threshold of a new phase that reverberates with awesome challenges. Zionism is mustering its power and influence to reinforce and expand its existence in the Arab world. Zionism is striving to exploit the crucial developments that have transformed the world over the past few years and to block a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

TISHRIN writes that President al-Asad's visit to Cairo proves that Syria is continuing to shoulder its national responsibility. The visit is also an important part of Syrian efforts to enable the Arabs to cope with the repercussions of the Kuwait disaster through clearing the Arab atmosphere, consolidating Arab solidarity, and formulating a joint Arab view of the need to face the challenges and perils looming over the Arab region. In this sense, the visit was successful and achieved all its objectives.

For its part, AL-THAWRAH says: The Cairo meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak laid the basic foundation for consolidating joint Arab work toward an effective Arab solidarity capable of safeguarding Arab national security in this crucial phase in the life of the Arab nation and the region and of consolidating the Arab nation's steadfastness in a phase of challenges against it, particularly continued Israeli aggression. Such solidarity would also enable the Arab people to act effectively toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, a peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and on guaranteeing the rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

Further Press Comment

NC0104074891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0450 GMT 1 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Cairo Talks," TISHRIN writes that observers followed with interest President Hafiz al- Asad's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak, in view of the significant role being played by Syria and Egypt in bringing Arabs together, developing a proper and effective solidarity, and activating collective Arab action institutions, particularly the Arab League.

The paper adds that it is known that Syria and Egypt made great efforts before the outbreak of the Gulf war, which resulted from the Iraqi devastation of Kuwait. They worked to develop a united Arab stand based on an actual dedication of energies and capabilities to counter the threats facing the nation, whether they are the growing Zionist aggression, the massive Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, or the world changes and related serious challenges, which Arabs should be qualified to deal with.

However, the Iraqi devastation and subsequent annexation of Kuwait—which made the crisis go beyond Arab control to the international arena and led to the outbreak of the war, which inflicted the gravest harm on Iraq and the region—came as a stab to the efforts of the two fraternal countries. This rendered a free and precious service to Israel. It persisted in its policy of settlement, oppression, and intimidation, unnoticed by the world, which was preoccupied with the Gulf crisis and its developments and related calamities.

TISHRIN continues: While the revolutionary Iraqi people, who deserve all support and backing, are the only ones entitled first and foremost to determine their future, the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict remains a pan-Arab responsibility. No party, whoever it may be, can monopolize the decisionmaking process in this regard. Monopolizing decisions has inflicted the gravest harm on the nation. This shows the significance of coordination between the stands of the two countries. This coordination has not ceased since the first meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak in Damascus.

This also emphasizes the need to counter all threats by a unified and responsible Arab stand based on established national principles, primarily the principle of not abandoning the land or the rights, particularly since the U.S.

Administration and the international community are on the verge of an active move to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. Arab interests can only be served by a just and comprehensive settlement which establishes the right of the Palestinian people to their soil and homeland and restores to Arabs their occupied lands.

On the same subject, AL-BA'TH writes: It is true that President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo and his meeting with his brother President Husni Mubarak are part of the continuous consultations between Syria and Egypt in various fields, with a view to serving the nation's interests. The current visit, however, in fact comes in the wake of very serious events in the Arab nation. These events would have destroyed everything—all that has been built by Arabs—were it not for the well-studied, clear stand assumed by Syria and Egypt on events which were forcibly imposed on the Arab nation by the Iraqi regime.

Now that the nation has safely overcome these events, all Arabs should be urged to unite their views and consolidate their efforts to serve the nation and its future generations.

AL-BA'TH concludes: We are certain that events in the past few months were a very cruel lesson from which we should learn to consolidate our role in today's world, where interests are entangled. There must be a serious and sincere move to develop an Arab stand with explicit objectives.

We believe that the Damascus Declaration can act as a sound, practical, and scientifically oriented nucleus for a collective Arab action which realizes several national and pan-Arab goals, specifically the full restoration of their usurped rights. This is the most important goal.

Arab League Talks 'Positive Step' Toward Unity

NC3003085291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0550 GMT 30 Mar 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Responsible Pan-Arab Stand," the newspaper TISHRIN writes: The Arab League Council meets in Cairo today with all member states participating. Although this meeting is an ordinary session, it has special significance. The deception practiced by the Iraqi regime after invading Kuwait—this invasion that tried to swallow up an Arab country, fragment ranks, destroy efforts at solidarity, and ruin the elements of joint Arab action—has collapsed.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Saddam's defeat has revealed the importance of the initiatives and efforts by Syria and other Arab countries to prevent the catastrophe. It also revealed the correctness of the warnings Syria and other Arab countries gave to Iraq's rulers not to go ahead with their plan to swallow up Kuwait by force. The proof is that the crisis itself exceeded all expectations, which is what led the Iraqi people to take upon themselves the task of bringing their leaders to account through the tumultuous uprising that has spread to all parts of Iraq.

TISHRIN says that collective participation in the Arab League Council is a constructive and positive step along the path of efforts started by Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf states to unite Arab ranks, build Arab solidarity, and revive the institutions of joint Arab action, foremost of which is the Arab League. The Damascus Declaration called for consolidating its role and responsibility.

TISHRIN concludes: The events of the distant and recent past in our region point very clearly to the need to confront the schemes of the Israeli enemy through a responsible Arab stand, a stand that does not forfeit any rights or territory.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech Addresses Khowst Events

LD0104200291 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Speech by President Najibullah; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Brave and hero Afghan compatriots, for many years the stability of our country, Afghanistan, has been threatened at times by the anti-Afghan policies of the Pakistan Government, primarily by its military circles. It has been disrupted during recent years by Pakistan's direct interference and intervention.

Despite the signing of the Geneva Accords, a creditable international document, the intervention and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan has continued. Unfortunately, during recent days, units of the Pakistani Armed Forces, including heavy long-range weapons, missiles, tanks, and militia and commando units under the direct leadership of Pakistan's generals, with the participation of Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar], their famous spy, and the extremist mercenaries linked to them, have resorted to open aggression on the city of Khowst. This open aggression is taking place while positive changes are occurring in the international arena to reduce tension and to resolve regional problems by peaceful means. In recent months, a trend has developed among the main sections of the opposition forces and local commanders toward the political and peaceful resolution of the Afghanistan issue. Most of Afghanistan's people are waiting impatiently to see the war end as soon as possible.

In coordination with these realities, the Republic of Afghanistan has made several proposals, all within the framework of its national reconciliation policy, toward the normalization of ties with Pakistan, and it has extended the hand of friendship to that country.

Nevertheless, despite all our honest efforts, Pakistan's militarists again have decided to confront us with another military test, ultimately threatening to divide the land of the Afghans. A vivid example of this aggressive policy is the attack on Khowst. You, brave compatriots, are aware of it.

Two weeks ago, changes in the deployment of Pakistan's forces began near Khowst. The Republic of Afghanistan officially informed the UN secretary general and asked for urgent UN intervention to end Pakistan's armed aggression. During the last few days, extremely heavy firing by Pakistan's artillery and rocket forces on Khowst has been uninterrupted. Despite this, units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, with joint efforts by tribal units and local citizens, defended their positions with firmness and heroism, and were foiling the mercenary forces and Pakistani militarists.

Therefore, a number of reinforcements and a necessary supply of arms and ammunition were airlifted to Khowst. As a result, the joint offensives by the enemy were totally defended in all directions and were pushed back. You were informed about this several times on radio and television. This heroic resistance by the defenders of Khowst forced the military circles in Pakistan to enter the battle full-scale in order to compensate for the defeat of their mercenary forces, as well as to involve regular units of the Pakistani Armed Forces directly and extensively in this [word indistinct] war.

The offensive operations on Khowst started early yesterday morning from all directions, and they continue with the support of the artillery, rocket, and armored forces of Pakistan. Unfortunately, closed land routes and changes in the weather have hampered the transport of arms, ammunition, and extra units during the last few days. Despite this, Afghan soldiers and officers fought bravley and with self-sacrifice. A number of them were martyred.

The unprecedented resistance of the defenders of Khowst continued into the middle of the night. This morning, however, the communications link between the Khowst garrison and the center was cut.

We have full confidence that even if only one cell remains in the bodies of the defenders, they will not refrain from the defense of the homeland. I pray for the pure soul of the martyrs on the path of the defense of the homeland and the defenseless and innocent people—the innocent children, women, and elderly people martyred in this sacred month of Ramadan—and declare tomorrow a national day of mourning.

Brave compatriots, the Republic of Afghanstan calls you.

The blatant and shameful invasion by Pakistan is the beginning of a great conspiracy to annihilate our ancient and historic land, Afghanistan. In such a difficult and historic moment, our Afghan honor, conscience, and valor demands we pay our debt to the homeland, the mother of all Afghans. We must be completely prepared to confront yet another difficult test given to us by history and fate.

Brave officials of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan: Maintain your alertness to clear away conspiracies and plots and the aggression of aliens and enemies of Afghanistan against the life of your country. Enhance our combat readiness and be ready for the resolute defense of the national honor of your country.

Struggler members of the Homeland Party: The greatest responsibiity for the defense of the country rests on your shoulders. As in previous years, hurry to intercept the danger threatening the homeland and your fellow countrymen. Defend the honor, dignity, and respectability of the Afghans.

Political allies of the Republic of Afghanistan and patriotic forces of the country: Foreigners and their mercenary agents have openly stepped onto the sacred sanctuary of the Afghans. In the tradition of our forefathers, unite in a steel fist and prevent the conspiracies of the aggressors who seek the disintegration of our homeland.

Realistic, pro-peace refugees in Pakistan and Iran: You see how Pakistan's military was directly involved in the aggression on your country. They want to impose their shameful and sinister conspiracies on the people of Afghanistan, and annihilate Afghanistan through Gulbuddin, the renowned spy, and the other mercenaries. I call on you to heed your Afghan conscience and see the truth. How can you ignore the clear and direct aggression and intervention of Pakistan against your country? Why are you silent? How will you answer your nation? How do you tolerate the killing of your compatriots at the hands of foreign enemies? Will Pakistan and Gulbuddin and their spies allow you to take part in the future political life of the country? Are you ready for your country to be occupied by Pakistan and its puppets? Are you ready to live in that country like slaves?

I address all Afghans in Europe and the United States: You should not become silent witnesses to your country's increasing destruction. Many times, in the name of peace and the deliverance of your country from the misfortunes of war and foreign aggression, we have sought your union and action. Your place is next to your peaceful and patriotic people, not next to the warmongering elements, servants, and foreign spies.

I address the world, especially the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the neighboring countries, the Islamic countries, and the NonAligned Movement: Those who reacted swiftly, decisively, and were united in the Gulf crisis have remained silent about Pakistan's open and extensive aggression against Khowst Province. They take no action against it. Has the time not yet come when the United Nations, under whose auspices the Geneva Accords were signed—guaranteed by countries such as the United States and the Soviet Union—should take serious action to prevent a regional conflict?

Dear compatriots, the savage attack and the hardships imposed on Khowst and its people by the foreigners and those they foster will pass. The freedom-loving people of Afghanistan will stand against the foreign conspiracies and plots with unity and cohesion. They will defeat them.

Muslim and liberated people of Afghanistan, become mobilized with Afghan unity and tradition, and understand your national and patriotic duties during this harsh time. Revive the past honor of your forefathers. Do not allow the foreign enemies of Afghanistan and their servants to leave a dirty stain on this honorable country.

The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan assures you, the Muslim and religious people of Afghanistan, that relying on almighty God, and with his help and yours, my brave compatriots, that they will fulfill their Afghan and Islamic duty to defend to the last breath the sacred homeland and honor of Afghans as the children of our proud country, Afghanistan.

Brave compatriots, let everyone know that our efforts for peace and reconciliation never emanates from weakness. The slogan of "Homeland or Death" is our habitual phrase. Our will to defend the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of our country is indestructible. We will fight, trench by trench, to the last breath of our life and to the last drop of our blood. We will not allow the scars of defeat and surrender to mark the foreheads of the liberated people of Afghanistan. The foreign servants and puppets will face a disgraceful defeat. The heroic nation of Afghanistan will be victorious. We are certain that the aggression on Khowst by the aggressive forces of Pakistan will be transformed into a powerful factor for the mobilization and national unity of all Afghans.

Success comes from God.

Rebels Claim 1,000 Casualties in Khowst Fighting

BK0104142891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 1 (AFP)—About 1,000 mujahidin were killed or wounded in the fighting for the strategic town of Khowst in Afghanistan, Na'im Majruh, director of the resistance information centre, said here Monday.

Independent sources confirmed that hundreds of mujahidin were wounded in the 17-day battle for Khowst, which the rebel guerrillas say fell into their hands Sunday.

At least 600 Afghan Government soldiers and militia were wounded, according to Jalaluddin Haqqani, one of the main mujahidin commanders in the Khowst operations. No figure was available on the number killed.

The National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), one of seven Pakistan-based resistance factions, said the mujahidin had captured intact 11 planes at Khowst airport, including transport aircraft and helicopters. Eight Soviet-made T-64 tanks were also captured, the NIFA said.

The resistance Afghan Interim Government (AIG) said that Khowst was under the "complete control" of the mujahidin and the situation was "calm." But other rebel sources said a group of Kabul officers and soldiers were perched on a hilltop called Matun, and that negotiations for their surrender were underway.

In Peshawar, Afghan refugees were donating blood for wounded mujahidin in who are being treated hospitals here, witnesses said.

Say Scuds Kill 10

BK0204113491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 2 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas said Tuesday that four Scud missiles launched by Kabul forces hit Khowst, killing at least 10 people and injuring 30. The missiles, apparently fired from Kabul, slammed overnight Monday into the border town which resistance fighters seized Sunday after heavy fighting.

Najibullah Lafra'i, information minister for the mujahedin government-in-exile based here, said the Scuds killed at least 10 people, including mujahidin fighters and captured government soldiers.

Western diplomats based in Islamabad ruled out any likelihood that the Soviet-backed Kabul government could recapture the key garrison town, located some 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Pakistan border. One diplomat said Kabul forces would likely resort to Scud attacks and air raids on resistance forces now in control of the town.

Pakistan has already called on the United Nations to step in to stop the Kabul government from carrying out its "brutal" and "intense" bombardment of the town, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reported.

AFP on Government Weapons Left Behind in Khowst

BK0204130691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 2 (AFP)—Fleeing Afghan Government troops left behind large numbers of weapons and other supplies when mujahidin fighters captured Khowst, western diplomats and rebel sources said Tuesday.

The president of the Afghan mujahidin government in exile meanwhile appealed to all resistance parties to stay united, following Sunday's capture of the garrison city near the Pakistan border.

"I urge all commanders to continue their unity and sincerety which had produced positive results in Khowst," said Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG).

Mujahidin commanders and resistance factions said a tank battalion, anti-aircraft battery and regimental base were seized when Khowst was seized after 18 days of combat.

A radio station and military workshop were also captured, as well as the city's airport, they said.

Western diplomats agreed. "The victory at Khowst has given the resistance a substantial base inside Afghanistan and a windfall of military equipment and ammunition," one of them said.

Rebel commanders arriving in Pakistan said a number of Kabul aircraft were captured when the airport was taken.

Informed western diplomats said the runway appeared operational, though radar installations were apparently hit.

But one diplomat doubted whether the mujahidin—whose ranks include pilots who have defected from the Afghan Air Force—would be able to fly the captured planes.

The mujahidin, which has been fighting to overthrow the pro-Soviet government in Kabul for 12 years, had waged a coordinated battle for more than two weeks to wrest control of Khowst.

Some resistance sources feared, however, that the war booty and control of the administration may disrupt the fragile unity among the seven moderate and fundamentalist parties.

In his statement, AIG President Mojaddedi called upon all the commanders to treat defectors, prisoners and wounded government troops "kindly and mercifully in accordance with the spirit of Islam."

In a similar statement, Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of the Jamiat-e-eslami faction, appealed to the mujahidin "to retain their spirit of cooperation and unity which led to the remarkable achievement."

The diplomats said the victory was a surprise, but they noted that the Kabul [regime] had been unable to resupply its forces. On the contrary, the mujahidin were "adequa[illegible]ly supplied".

They also did not believe allegations from Kabul that the Pakistani army had directly participated in the fighting.

Khaliqyar Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD0204054891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Press Office of the premiership reported to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY: Under the chairmanship of Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Council of Ministers general session was held this morning. A series of decisions have been made on the abolition of customs duties and the abolition of ministries and administrations' internal investigation and legal advisory departments.

At the outset of the session the esteemed prime minister spoke on the operational situation of Khowst Province. While noting the bravery and self-sacrifice of the people and the defenders of Khowst, which had been shown with Afghan valor and national sense against planned attacks directly supported by Pakistani forces, he said that Khowst Province as a part of the united body of Afghanistan would not remain in its present problems, because Afghans have the manhood and power of defending their honor, dignity, and territorial integrity

against foreign aggression. Esteemed Khaliqyar stated with regret that despite constructive proposals and the goodwill of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, for the betterment of good-neighbor relations, violations of the Geneva agreements and international norms against direct interference in our country's internal affairs has intensified, creating many problems for the people of Khowst Province.

The esteemed prime minister later talked about a series of issues and measures which have been taken by the Council of Ministers in order to provide facilities for compatriots to make available for the people a necessary amount of sugar during the month of Ramadan; for setting unit prices of [word indistinct]; for the improvement of the situation of construction firms; for the cooperation of all ministries and administrations for the allocation of a fair share of jobs and apartments to the disabled, invalids, and families of martyrs; and for the purchase from farmers of last year's cotton yield. He insisted on the fulfillment of the tasks in time.

According to the agenda, Minister of Finance Muhammad Hakim presented a report to the high session of ministers on the abolition of customs duties on export items and on the import of some necessary and primary goods. The high session of ministers, acknowledging the importance of the issue and in line with the economic and taxation policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, considered them valuable for the encouragement and enhancement of exports, the increase in hard currency income, and the strengthening the economy of the country. Additionally, they called for the abolition of customs duties on export items and on the import of some necessary and primary items such as vegetable ghee and (?rice flour) as a measure for relative stability in the prices of goods in the market. A resolution was issued in this respect. In line with this decision of the government, businessmen, exporting firms, and entrepreneurs of the private sector can—taking advantage of better possibilities and more facilities—have access to new markets for the export of goods and for obtaining desirable economic results from the abolition of customs duties on some necessary and primary goods.

The minister of finance also presented a report to the Council of Ministers on the abolition of internal investigation and legal advisory departments of ministries and administrations. The Council of Ministers approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance about the abolition of some unnecessary positions of deputy ministers, legal advisory departments and internal investigation departments of ministries and administrations, and the merger of foreign relations departments with planning departments in order to implement government policy and review and reform management—taking into account the division of duties, speed, reduction in inflated management, the removal of bureaucracy, and the prevention of slackness and repetition in the work process. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

New Council Meets, Reviews Essential Commodities

BK0104161091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers met at Bangabhavan [president's house] in Dhaka today with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair. This was the first meeting of the council presided over by Begum Khaleda Zia after her assumption of the office of the prime minister. Official sources say the meeting discussed the present state of supply, stock and the market price of food grain, fuel and other petroleum, oil and lubricant products, and all other essential commodities. The meeting found the food position fairly satisfactory. By now, more than 11 lakh tons of food grain have been imported as food aid, and by June next, the total import of food as food aid will reach 17 lakh tons. A council committee was formed to review the overall food situation covering the present stock position, expected production and requirements of internal and external procurement and submit a report to the cabinet shortly.

The meeting decided to encourage the consumption of potato to supplement food grain. It also decided to take effective measures for augmenting food production and increasing internal and external procurement during the current season. The meeting was apprised that the stock position of petroleum, oil, and lubricant products is satisfactory. Adequate steps have been taken to keep the crude import at even level so that the supply in the market remains uninterrupted. Another council committee was formed to constantly monitor the import and stock position of petroleum, oil, and lubricant products and recommend suitable measures to keep the market price steady. The meeting also reviewed the price and supply position of essential commodities and found them stable. The ministry of commerce was given a directive to review and monitor the supply and market price of essential commodities and to take measures to keep the price stable and within the reach of the consumers.

Natural Gas Reserves To Last Until 2026

BK0104150991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 1 (AFP)—Bangladesh's current natural gas reserves of 25.66 trillion cubic feet (76.8 billion cubic metres) are expected to last until 2026, officials said here Monday.

They said the forecast was made on the basis of current consumption of 490 million cubic feet (14.7 million cubic metres) annually, adding that the consumption in 1995 would be 827 million cubic feet (24.8 million cubic metres) and 1.287 billion cubic feet (38.6 million cubic metres) in the year 2000.

As by-products the country was also getting 900 barrels of condensate and 300 barrels of oil every day, which were being used locally.

There were 17 gas fields in operation now and exploration for others is under way, officials said.

India

Meeting With Pakistani Military Officials Begins

BK0104154491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] A three-day meeting between senior military officials of Pakistan and India to formulate measures to create mutual trust in order to reduce tension at the borders began in Delhi today. The military officials will also consider a draft of two agreements. One of them relates to advance notice for military exercises and the other relates to the modalities for avoiding violation of each other's airspace. Earlier, the Pakistani delegation leader met the Indian secretary of defense for an informal exchange of views.

Ambassador Oakley's Remarks On Kashmir Criticized

BK0104154391 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 91 p 13

[Editorial: "The Oakley Statement"]

[Text] The United States will be grievously mistaken if it thinks that the Congress-I rejection of the American position over Kashmir is a sectarian view which, therefore, can be ignored. Reacting to the stand taken by the US ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Robert Oakley, that Kashmir is a disputed territory, AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] general secretary V.N. Gadgil asserted on Thursday that the State is an integral part of India. In doing so, Mr Gadgil was speaking not merely on behalf of his party, but for the entire country. It is necessary to emphasise this point to underline the depth of the unfriendliness, if not hostility, of the American official's statement. Normally Mr Oakley's letter to the Kashmiri-American Council expostulating Washington's stand on the Kashmir question could have been ignored as an effort by an envoy to mend fences with a government that is estranged with it. But it cannot be done for a number of reasons. Mr Oakley's statement completely negates the impression that Washington and New Delhi have moved closer in recent months and years, especially after the US publicly took the view that it does not favour plebiscite in Kashmir any longer and that the matter should be resolved in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. Ominously, Mr Oakley seems to go back on the latest US stand on plebiscite and take the issue back to 1947-48 when the Indian subcontinent had just been partitioned on the basis of Muslims and non-Muslims. There can be no other meaning of the Oakley statement referring to "Muslim Kashmiris and non-Muslim Kashmiris"—a phrase a responsible American official has used for the first time. Mr Oakley's views, to the extent they reflect official Washington policy, cannot be viewed in India without concern.

The US has reasons to be worried about its continuous frictions with Pakistan. Mr Oakley may have received a brief to please Islamabad, and create conditions so that the US aid to Pakistan, suspended last October, can be resumed. The urgency of the American effort would at least be partly explained by its calculations for the Gulf and its worry that Pakistan might move closer to Iran. This is wholly unwelcome to the US which is reluctant to accord Tehran a major role in the Gulf. However, India cannot be made to pay a heavy price just to enable Washington [to] placate Pakistan.

Documents Allege Assam 'Militants'-LTTE Link

BK0204100091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Ajay Singh, in charge of the operation to deal with the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists in Assam, has described it as a complete success. The general said that its success should not be measured in terms of arrests, but by the fact that normalcy has been restored in the state. The government is now thinking of beginning a democratic process. Speaking to a group of Delhi-based journalists visiting the eastern sector, he said it was not an operation against a military force, but to deal with some misguided elements. Denying reports of excesses by the army, he said there has been full cooperation from the Assam administration, including the police. Earlier, the visiting journalists were apprised of the various phases of the operation in which nearly 450 ULFA activists were arrested. The documents seized by the army gave positive indication that ULFA activists had links with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres.

Suspected Muslim Rebels Abduct Swedes in Kashmir

BK0104131291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 1 (AFP)—Suspected Muslim guerrillas fighting for independence have kidnapped two Swedish engineers in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir, the Swedish Embassy here said Monday.

An embassy spokeswoman said armed gunmen abducted Johan Jansson and Olle Loman Sunday when they were travelling by car from Tangmarg to Gulmarg, about 45 kilometers (28 miles) from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The kidnappers also abducted Mr. Jansson's wife and two children, but released them after about five hours, the spokeswoman added.

She said the embassy had no clue as to the identity of the kidnappers, but official sources here said the gunmen were likely to be Muslim militants fighting to secede Kashmir from India.

Mr. Jansson and Mr. Loman were employed with a construction firm, but the spokeswoman said she did not know how long the two had been working in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state where more than 2,200 people have been killed in a separatist campaign since January 1990.

She said Mr. Jansson's wife and children were reportedly safe.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said police and security forces had launched a massive hunt to track down the abductors and their victims but gave no further details.

Muslim militants have repeatedly resorted to kidnappings in Kashmir to force the government to free colleagues in prison.

On February 27, guerrillas abducted the daughter of a prominent Indian Kashmiri MP [member of Parliament] and released her after nine days after securing the freedom of one of their imprisoned men.

India accuses Pakistan, which disputes Kashmir's 1947 accession to New Delhi, of arming the Muslim rebels. Islamabad refutes the charge, but describes the Moslem campaign as a struggle for self-determination.

V.P. Singh Rules Out Merger With Janata Dal-S

BK3003075491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] The National Front has reached an understanding with the left parties to fight all the parliamentary seats in the ensuing elections. This was stated by the Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, yesterday while talking to reporters in Broach in Gujarat. He ruled out any possibility of merging his party with the Janata Dal-S or entering into any alliance with it.

West Bengal Assembly Dissolved for Elections

BK3103130891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] The West Bengal governor, Professor Nurul Hasan, has dissolved the state assembly with effect from today on the advice of the council of ministers. A press note to this effect was issued by the Raj Bhavan [Governor House] in Calcutta this afternoon. The governor has directed the state government to formally request the Election Commission to hold the assembly poll along with the Lok Sabha elections.

Kerala Cabinet Recommends Dissolution of Assembly

BK3103131691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] The Kerala cabinet has recommended to the governor to dissolve the assembly on Friday [5 April]. The chief minister, Mr. E.K. Nayanar, has written a letter to the governor in this regard. He has also asked the Election Commission to hold assembly elections along with the Lok Sabha polls. Disclosing this to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, said the commission would wait till such time the state assembly dissolves before deciding about the assembly poll.

Election Commission Cautions Against Propaganda

BK0104132291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The Election Commission has cautioned political parties and candidates against indulging in poll propaganda based on religion, caste, creed, and language. It has drawn the attention of parties to various legal provisions under which candidates will be disqualified from contesting elections for six years besides the election being declared invalid. These provisions cover offenses including appeal based on religion, caste, and language and promotion of hatred among different sections of citizens. The commission has also pointed out that publishing election materials, like posters and hand notices, which do not bear the name and address of printers and publishers also constitute an offense punishable under election laws.

BJP Head Says Shrine Not Main Election Issue

BK0204134691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that the Ram Janmabhoomi [shrine in Ayodhya] issue will not be the main plank of the party in the coming elections. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he said the party will be highlighting major issues like unity and integrity of the country and socioeconomic problems.

Curfew Imposed in Gujarat After Clashes

BK3003081291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] In Gujarat, four persons were injured in a stone throwing incident and police firing following group clashes in Ankleswar town of Broach District last night. Authorities imposed a night curfew from 2000 last night to 0600 this morning. The situation is reported to be peaceful.

Three Police Injured in East Delhi Violence

BK0104132091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Three policemen were injured this morning in the Gokulpuri area of East Delhi when the police tried to control a violent mob indulging in stone throwing. The trouble started when some members of a community objected over taking out a procession from their locality. According to official sources, the police used tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. The situation is now under control.

Kashmiri Leader Demands Probe of Security Forces

BK3003130291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Professor Saifuddin Soz, member of the dissolved Lok Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir, has in a memorandum urged the prime minister to order a high-level probe into the alleged excesses by the security forces in Kupwara District. In a statement issued in New Delhi, Mr. Soz said holding of Lok Sabha polls in only some areas of Jammu and Kashmir will be detrimental to the integrity of the state. He reiterated his view that in the present situation, it is not possible to hold free and fair elections in the state.

Impounded Fishing Boats, Crew Members Exchanged

BK2903161491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] India and Pakistan today exchanged each other's impounded fishing boats along with their crew. These boats had accidentally strayed into each other's territorial waters. While India returned 23 Pakistani boats and 130 crew, Pakistan handed over 20 Indian boats and 100 crew.

Announcement of Project To Produce Carbon Fiber

BK0204050691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] India has become the seventh country in the world to produce carbon fiber, a strategic material for use in defense, space, aeronautics, artificial implantation and engineering. The public sector Indian Petrochemicals Corporation has set up a 34 crore rupees private project to produce 12 tons of carbon fiber every year.

Provisional Results Of 1991 Census Analyzed

BK2903160191 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Mar 91

[N. Ramarao Commentary"]

[Text] According to the provisional results of the 1991 census of India conducted during 9 February to 5 March, the population of India as at the sunrise of 1 March 1991 was 843.93 million, consisting of 437.60 million males and 406.33 million females. This includes the projected population of 7.72 million of Jammu and Kashmir State where the census is proposed to be held later this year. The population of India is second only to China which has a population of 1,160 million. About 16 percent of the world's population of 5.28 billion is accounted for by our country which occupies only 2.42 percent of the total world area.

The density of population of India is 267 per square km in 1991 as against 216 in 1981. In other words, the number of persons per square km has increased by 56 during the decade 1971 to 1981 [sentence as heard]. Among the states, the density is the highest in West Bengal, 766; followed by Kerala, 747. It is the lowest in Arunachal Pradesh, 10. Among the union territories, Delhi has the highest density of 6,319, followed by Chandigarh 5,620, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has the lowest density of 34.

India's population has been increasing steadily since the turn of this century except for a decrease during the decade 1911-21. The highest growth rate of the country was recorded during the decade 1961-71 when it was 24.80 percent. It declined to 24.66 percent during the subsequent decade. The 1991 census has revealed that it has shown a further decline to 23.50 percent during the decade 1981-91. The average annual exponential growth rate has declined from 2.22 percent during 1971-81 to 2.11 percent during 1981-91. In absolute terms, the population of India has increased by 160.6 million during the decade 1981-91, which is almost equal to the population added during the three decades from 1931-61. The absolute addition to the population during the decade 1981-91 is more or less equal to the population of a country like Japan. We are adding every year the population of a country like Australia to our population.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh has the highest population of 138.8 million. The lowest population is found in Sikkim, 4.04 lakhs. Among the union territories, Delhi has the highest population of 9.4 million and Laccadive has the lowest population of 15,681. The six most populous states, namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh together account for nearly 60 percent of the total population of the country. During the 1981-91 decade, Nagaland has registered the highest growth rate of 56.86 percent, followed by Delhi 50.64, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands 47.29. The lowest growth rate of 13.98 percent has been registered in Kerala. The adjoining state of Tamil Nadu, which had registered the lowest growth rate of 17.5 percent during the 1971-81, has registered a very low growth rate of 14.94 percent during 1981-91 also. The sex composition which is one of the basic demographic characteristic of the population is affected by the differentials in the mortality, conditions of males and females, sex [word indistinct] migration, and the sex ratios at birth. The sex ratio defined as the number of males per thousand females: The population has declined from 934 in 1981 to 929 in 1991 in the country as a whole. Kerala has the highest sex ratio of 1,040 when in Chandigarh Union Territory it is the

lowest with 783. The reason for the general disparity in the sex ratio and the declining trend over the years require a detailed analysis.

The literacy rate in India has increased from 43.56 percent in 1981 to 52.11 percent in 1991, thus crossing the 50 percent mark. These rates have been calculated for the population aged seven years and above. Among males, the literacy rate has increased from 56.37 percent to 63.86 percent during this period. The increase in the literacy rate in females is (?from) little more than 29.75 percent in 1981 to 39.42 percent in 1991. The literacy rate in Pakistan was 25.67 in 1981 and in Bangladesh it was 28.42 at that time. Female literacy rates in these countries were 15.62 and 18.97 respectively.

Iran

Iraqi Envoy Summoned To Receive Incursion Protest

LD0204100491 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, Apr. 2, IRNA—The Iraqi charge d'affaires here was summoned to the Foreign Ministry by Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam Monday. Sheykh ol-Eslam voiced the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong protest to the Iraqi Government regarding Monday morning's invasion against Iranian territory. Referring to the attack in the capacity of a brigade by "forces inside Iraq" in the Khaneqin region, the deputy foreign minister asked for explanations from the Iraqi Government.

A military source on Monday said Revolution Guards had repelled an attack by the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq, killing many of them and capturing several others.

Judiciary Reports Release of UK's Cooper

LD0204105591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Judiciary announces: This morning, after serving his sentence, Roger Cooper was released and immediately deported.

Official Departs To Reopen Riyadh Embassy

LD3003171291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Iran's Foreign Ministry director for Persian Gulf Affairs left for Saudi Arabia at the head of a delegation this afternoon. During the visit, which is taking place in the wake of the official announcement of the resumption of political ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, our country's embassy and consulate general will be reopened in Riyadh and Jeddah.

Also during the visit, our country's Foreign Ministry director for Persian Gulf Affairs will discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular issues related to the Iranian pilgrims visiting the holy shrines this year.

Reopening Announced

NC0104200091 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] After three years of closure, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was inaugurated in Riyadh this morning. Participating in the embassy inauguration ceremonies was an Iranian delegation headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Fumani-Ha'eri, adviser to the foreign minister, and the director general of the Persian Gulf Department at the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry. The delegation headed for Jeddah this afternoon to inaugurate the Iranian consulate there.

Commentary on U.S. 'Green Light' to Baghdad

LD3003123791 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commenting on internal situation in Iraq and the endless sufferings of the Iraqi people under the Ba'thist rule, wrote that the Baghdad regime has intensified its attacks on the people with U.S. encouragement. Having received green light from Washington the Baghdad regime in putting down the popular uprising is deploying all sorts of weapons, including chemical warfare, wrote the Persian daily.

The Ba'thists have brought nothing for Iraqis but repression, misery and suffering. Now, the masses fed up with repressive measures of the regime have revolted against the regime and expect the world and the international bodies in particular to support their cause. Not only none of people's expectations materialized, but those who had overthrow of the Baghdad regime top in their agenda shifted their policy and encouraged Baghdad to go ahead with its massacre of the people.

"At present Baghdad regime enjoying undeclared support of the U.S. and the Security Council commits all kinds of crimes in crushing the people," it said. The U.S. by turning a blind eye on Baghdad regime's atrocities including its deployment of chemical weapons is in fact backing the regime in its crimes. The shift in White House policy speaks of U.S. concern over coming to power of a popular government in Iraq. Washington would like the Baghdad regime to massacre the population as much as possible and "install a new government in Iraq once this ominous plot is carried out," JOMHURI wrote.

"Had it not been for the explicit and implicit support of the White House for the Baghdad regime, people by now would have taken major strides in determining their own fate." The Security Council which was issuing resolution after resolution at time of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is now silent and is not bothered with tragic events in Iraq—genocide and unprecedented violation of human

rights. Situation in Iraq provides another test for international bodies and the U.N. and the Security Council in particular, concluded the daily.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Military Presence

LD3003135191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The commander of the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf has announced that a unit of the U.S. Army's Central Command will be permanently stationed in the Persian Gulf region. Riyadh officials, while welcoming the U.S. move, have denied the stationing of the said force in Saudi Arabia. Before the start of the war in the Persian Gulf, the possibility of U.S. forces remaining in the region was declared infeasable by Saudi Arabian leaders. In any case, although the country where the force will be stationed has not been announced, some reports indicate that Schwarzkopf, the American commander of the multinational forces, during last week's visit to Bahrain conducted some talks with Bahraini officials regarding this issue. It is likely that they have had discussions on the signing of an agreement regarding the stationing of forces in Bahrain.

The American President, during the Persian Gulf crisis and war, emphasized many times that with the ending of the crisis in the region, America would withdraw its forces from the Persian Gulf. Now it seems that Pentagon officials, drunk with the bloody wine of their victory against Iraq, prefer to change with the tide and, with lack of foresight, are intent on finding a place in the political decisionmaking of their country, even though some sources in London have emphasized that this military plan has yet to be approved by Washington's political authorities and the American President. This shows that the plan for permanently stationing military forces in the region has been presented by the military and lacks political foresight. Moreover, it seems that Washington has not yet come to a unified and proper conclusion about the plan. The approval of such plans by the political leaders of America arises from the increased role of the military in the political decisionmaking of America, which reveals the dominance of militarism over Washington's foreign policy.

The natural consequence of the military's dominance over Washington's foreign policy is the expansion of tension and military conflicts instead of political stability. This is incompatible with the changing requirements of today's world and political detente in the relations among the world's large and small states.

On the other hand, with Iraq's military defeat, the Persian Gulf region, after a decade of turbulence, which mainly sprang from Iraq, has entered a new period of political calm. Diplomatic developments indicate that the regional states seek stability and security across the region and are making a concerted effort toward this. Within this collection of diplomatic efforts, any action that has military overtones is not in harmony with this trend and will be considered a kind of threat. Therefore, the stationing of a military force in the region by any state will not result in anything but insecurity and tension. Moreover, the long-term presence of American forces will naturally bring about political instability for the states where they are stationed.

While the world today is considering the need for the settlement of problems through political and diplomatic means, it is fitting for Washington to follow the same trend, since experience has shown that militarism is always followed by insecurity. That is why Islamic Iran's authorities have consistently objected to the presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf and believe the political cooperation of this region's states to be the main guarantor for establishing peace and security in the region.

U.S. Criticized at Republic Day Celebrations

NC0204125691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] On 1 April, the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, and the birth anniversary of Imam Hasan Mojtaba, peace be upon him, a massive gathering of POW's from Tehran province was held at the mausoleum of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified.

At this gathering, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Abu Torabi, the Vali-ye Faqih's deputy in the office for POW affairs, officials, POW's of Tehran province and various sections of society, and the POW's sang songs and laid a wreath at the imam's tomb, and a message by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was read out.

In a portion of this message, while hailing the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Hasan, peace be upon him, and the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, and while paying tributes to the POW's, it was stated: These noble people, who are paragons of love and courage, steadfastly and ruthlessly fought alongside their peers with bloodstained shrouds in the bunkers, and bore the tribulations of incarceration with fortitude. With high determination and unprecedented perseverance, they won greatness and honor for Islam and the system of the Islamic Republic, just as the other self-sacrificing people of this revolution.

In his message the president called on officials of the country to strive to be of service to these paragons of resistance and other dear self-sacrificing people of the system, and to make efforts so that with support and the precise and swift implementation of the pertinent regulations, their problems can be solved and the way paved for their prosperity and their greater contribution to the country's construction.

At the ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni elaborated on the various

aspects of the combatant life of His Holiness Imam Hasan Mojtaba, peace be upon him. While paying homage to the selflessness and heroism of the POW's, he said: These noble people are the pride and joy of the country. Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should examine their welfare to eliminate ambiguities and problems in their lives and provide conditions for their growth.

Referring to the U.S. plot in the Persian Gulf, he said: As long as you and we defend the ideals of the imam, the revolution, and pure Muhammadan Islam, U.S. animosity will continue to manifest itself in the form of malice. He also condemned the atrocities of the Ba'thist rulers of Iraq in killing the defenseless Muslim people of Iraq who have risen up against them, saying: The United States is fearful and upset at the prospect of Muslims gaining power in Iraq and therefore permits Saddam to attack the cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf with bombs and the people of Iraq who have risen up against him. It is also content with the destruction of people at the hands of Saddam.

The ceremonies concluded with the showering of flowers on the imam's holy tomb by the POW's and other participants.

Daily Warns of 'Indifference' Toward Enemies

LD3103110591 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday warned against indifference towards and negligience of dangers of enemies of Islam now that the Islamic Republic has successfully passed through the crucial years.

In its editorial on the occasion of April 1, the Islamic Republic Day, 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' added that although enemies of Islam have been defeated in their plots against the revolution, one should not assume that the frustrated enemies have abandoned their plots.

Stressing that the enemies have been forced to admit the power and rightfulness of Iran's stands, the paper said the complexity of the present situation calls for greater vigilance and unity.

The paper invited the Iranian nation to shoulder more responsibilities under the present circumstances and realize the present and future needs of the Islamic Republic. Safeguarding the Islamic revolution requires more skill, competence and self-confidence, it said.

Stressing that unity of the revolutionary forces is still a must in taking forward aspirations of the Islamic revolution, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI called on officials to become the best example for others through their brotherly and right attitude.

It called for avoiding factional disputes saying that regardless of their cause and outcome they will ultimately be to the detriment of the nation.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Accuses Army of Attack in Iraq

NC0104183991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The Iraq-based Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] stated from Paris today that the Iranian Army attacked them inside Iraqi territory, but that they repulsed the attack and left about 300 dead among the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC].

IRNA this morning carried the same report, but the other way around. It accused the MKO of infiltrating Iranian territory, where the IRGC confronted and captured many of them.

For its part, the MKO demanded that a UN team be dispatched to examine the truth of the situation. They said they had killed the attackers, including their leader, Hasan Bakhtiari, who was identifed by his identification card.

It should be recalled that this is the first such clash since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. It coincides with celebrations in Tehran today marking the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The celebrations are organized under the slogan of solidarity with the Iraqi Muslim people. During the celebrations, the speakers denounced the United States and the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The MKO today also denied a statement by Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barazani that the MKO are fighting alongside the pro-Saddam Husayn troops. The denial was made by the organization's spokesman in Paris, Najib Taleqan [name as heard], who once again asserted that MKO fighters were not involved in the battles in which the Iraqi president's troops regained control of Karkuk from Kurdish fighters.

SAIRI Appeals for Help Against Saddam

LD0104150591 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) in a message Monday called on international organizations to protest the killing of the people in Iraq and help them in their plight.

The communique of the assembly said that the reshuffle of government by Saddam Husayn is a maneuver for covering "the ugly face" of the government in that country. It said all government ministers in Iraq are "simply pawns in the hands of Saddam."

Meanwhile a spokesman of the SAIRI said here Sunday that SAIRI head Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakim Sunday morning received General Ibrahim Addavoud, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Iraq.

In their meeting the two reviewed the current trend of affairs in Iraq and the latest developments in that country.

Kurdish Refugees Said To Report Chemical Raids

LD0204123991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] IRNA cites a group of refugees who say the intensified chemical bombings by Iraq's Ba'thist regime and the food shortage in that country induced them to take refuge in Iran. The number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees who have been taking refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been growing in the past few days, and with the escalation of the clashes in northern Iraq more refugees have poured toward the Iranian borders. Some 500 Iraqi refugees have entered the Islamic Republic of Iran's territory through various mountainous regions of Sar Dasht and Piranshahr. This report says that measures have been taken for the transfer of a number of these refugees from Piranshahr to Orumiyeh, and a number will possibly be transferred to that town today. Among the injured from the clashes in northern Iraq there are also a number of women and children injured in the shelling and rocket attacks launched against northern Iraq.

Ayatollah Golpayegani Condemns Treatment of Kho'i

LD2903143191 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March, IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani Thursday condemned atrocities of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces against the Iraqi Muslims and urged Muslims to help their Iraqi brothers by sending medicine and foodstuff.

In a statement issued Thursday night the grand ayatollah deplored disrespect for Islamic sacred places in Iraq, scholars and Islamic personalities.

Ayatollah Golpayegani said that the tragic situation in Iraq and the sufferings of the Iraqi Muslims has put Muslims in deep grief.

He said the Iraqi regime was committing all sorts of crimes among them suppressing the masses, massacring defenceless people with chemical weapons, arresting revered scholars and Islamic personalities, destroying homes, mass killing of people, preventing burial of the dead and assistance to the injured, hungery and ill, destroying holy places, violating the revered Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i's freedom in choosing his residence, persecuting and arresting him, his relatives, and associates and other personalities of the al-Najaf theological school.

The statement continued that Saddam following his crimes in Kuwait and the subsequent defeat is now targetting the oppressed Iraqi people who want to decide their own fate.

The ayatollah added that international bodies, the U.N., and the U.N. secretary general in particular have not fulfilled their responsibilities, have not heeded to the cries of the oppressed Iraqi people and have not taken a step to stop the genocide and bloodshed in the country. Therefore, under such circumstances the freedom loving people of the world and the Muslims should not sit silent and should sympathize with the Iraqi people in any possible way and take actions to end their sufferings.

The statement further referred to inquires made by Muslims from Ayatollah Golpayegani concerning their religious obligations vis-a-vis the present situation in Iraq. Thanking those who have pledged support for the revered Ayatollah Kho'i by staging demonstrations, marches, and holding prayers, the statement said these activities should be continued until the time that no danger threatens Ayatollah Kho'i's life and he is totally free, the Iraqi people are victorious and suppression is demolished. He also appealed to Muslims to send medicines and foodstuff to the Iraqis.

110,000 To Embark on Mecca Pilgrimage

LD3003122791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Excerpt] During the current year 110,000 people will be sent to the holy Mecca as pilgrims to the house of God. I draw your attention to our correspondent's interview with the deputy in charge of the affairs of the hajj pilgrimage.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Reza'i, regarding the statements issued by the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization on the ceremonies, please tell us about the number of people who are going to be honored to visit the house of God.

[Reza'i] Regarding the agreements reached this year, God willing, in total 110,000 pilgrims or those in charge of their affairs are going to be sent. This number of pilgrims, in comparison with the figure in 1987, is one-third less. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Negotiations Over Kuwaiti Planes Said Under Way

TA0204114691 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] We have learned that Mohsen, the eldest son of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is visiting Kuwait along with an Islamic Republic delegation, has been assigned to negotiate with Kuwaiti officials the return of Kuwaiti aircraft which Iraq transferred to the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic regime hopes to receive payment from Kuwait in return for handing over the planes.

Pakistan

UN Urged To Help Stop Kabul Attacks on Khowst

BK0204082291 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan has urged the United Nations to help stop the Kabul regime's brutal Scud missile and aerial attacks on Khowst, which has been liberated by the Afghan mujahidin. In a letter to the secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Pakistan's Ambassador Mr. Jamshed Markar quoted reports from Afghanistan as saying that the intense bombardment was taking a heavy toll of life and causing devastation of property in the liberated city. He proposed the dispatch of a UN team to Khowst to observe the situation and the killings and suffering caused by the indiscriminate aerial bombardment and the use of weapons of mass destruction by the Kabul regime. He urged the UN chief to use his influence in putting an end to these attacks.

Mr. Jamshed Markar reaffirmed Pakistan's resolute commitment to promote a political settlement of the Afghan conflict and its readiness to cooperate with the peace efforts of the secretary general.

President, Prime Minister Greet Iranian President

BK0104044491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today greeted Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of Republic Day of Iran. They expressed confidence in their separate messages that the present bilateral cooperation and close brotherly relations would continue strengthening out of mutual interest.

Iranian Envoy Reaffirms Support for Kashmiris

BK0104094891 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Iran has reaffirmed its support for the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In an interview to Radio Pakistan on the occasion of Republic Day of Iran today, the Iranian ambassador in Pakistan, Mr. Javad Mansuri, said that his country fully supported the just struggle of the Kashmiri people who are being subjected to deprivation of their due right. He said that Iran has the best of relations with Pakistan and the Iranian Government is making all-out efforts to further improve them. The Iranian ambassador said their country achieved a great progress in the fields of industrialization, agriculture and education in the last 12 years.

Official Hosts Dinner for Outgoing PRC Envoy

BK0104050291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, hosted a dinner in honor of outgoing Chinese Ambassador Tian Ding in Islamabad last night. Speaking on the occasion, the secretary general expressed thanks for Chinese assistance to Pakistan in the economic and defense fields. He said China and Pakistan have identical views on major international and regional issues. The Chinese ambassador thanked the Pakistani Government and people for extending cooperation during his stay in Pakistan. Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and Federal Minister for Manpower Ejazul Haq were also present on the occasion.

Eight Religious Parties Form 'Common Forum'

BK3103161491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Mar 91 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, March 30—Eight religio-political parties, including five belonging to IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and a component of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] alliance, on Saturday [30 March] announced the formation of "common forum" to launch a struggle to evolve a consensus on national issues, including "the supremacy of the shari'a [Islamic law]."

The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting held here at the residence of former Minister for Local Government, Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi, who is also chief of the JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i- Pakistan] (Niazi group).

This was the second meeting of their parties, and participated by Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad (Jamaat-i-Islami JI), Maulana Samiul Haq and Qazi Abdul Latif (JUI(D), Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani and Mohammad Siddique (JUI(F), Allama Sajid Naqvi (TNFJ), Agha Murtaza Pooya (Hizbe Jehad), Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi and Eng [engineer] Salimullah Khan (JUP(NIAZI), Prof. Mohammad Yahya (Jamiat Ahle Hadth), Malik Abdul Rauf (United Ulema Council), a former minister Mian Atta Ullah and Maulana Mohammad Ajmal.

The participants of the newly formed "common forum" agreed on the following: (a) Establishment of the supremacy of the shari'a; (b) Forging unity among the people of Pakistan, eschewing sectarian, ethnic, linguistic considerations, oneness of the Pakistani nation based on Islam and integration of people belonging to different religious sects, ethnic groups, (c) protection of fundamental human rights ensuring that life, honour and property of the people are protected and they enjoy an opportunity to freely express their views, (d) ensuring law and order and provision of effective and speedy justice to all, make sure that police no longer remains an instrument to oppression, (e) equal economic opportunities to all and fair distribution of wealth and income, (f) protection of national sovereignty, reduction of

dependence on outside world and finally internal and external policies to be pursued in such a way as to ensure preservation and protection of national interest and security, achieving self-reliance and independently pursuing military and nuclear deterrence. This, they said, could only be achieved by trusting the people and involving them in the process of development.

"The forum will make every effort individually as well as collectively to prevail upon the government to work within the parliament to achieve its objectives," said Maulana Niazi when asked to comment on the need of establishing this forum outside the platform of IJI and PDA.

Most of the leaders told THE MUSLIM that the 'forum' should not be considered as a third political force in the country. They opined there was a need to have a better understanding between the religio-political parties.

Maulana Niazi told THE MUSLIM that the forum should not be taken as a "pressure group" against the IJI government. "We are determined to struggle for an early enforcement of shari'a", he claimed.

When asked as to whether any of the participants of this meeting was approached by the government, the Maulana said, "Yes, the Prime Minister talked both to Prof. Khurshied Ahmed and Senator Raja Zafarul Haq, adding that "the PM [prime minister] reiterated his commitment to enforce the shari'a.

The Maulana, however, said if the government did not introduce the proposed shari'a bill in the house by 27th Ramzan [13 April] the members belonging to this forum would introduce a private bill.

Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani of JUI(F) talking to newsmen, said the participants were interested in forming a "new political alliance."

Agha Murtaza Pooya of Hizbe Jehad told newsmen that this forum would provide a golden opportunity to the Islamic forces to get united at a time when an Islamic country, Iraq, had been destroyed. Unity among religious parties, he added, would prove beneficial to the Afghan Jihad, Palestine and the struggles being waged by the Kashmiris.

Both Maulana Samiul Haq and Qazi Abdul Latif of JUI(I) aired satisfaction over the assembling of religious leaders on one platform.

They, however, said they would not oppose the IJI government on any issue, and they would only press for early passage of the shari'a bill.

The Chief of the TNFJ, Allama Sajid Naqvi, said it would be a great thing if all the religious parties could evolve consensus on shari'a.

Terming today's meeting as most cordial, Allama Naqvi stressed that his party had been assured of removing all provisions from the proposed bill which were unacceptable to them. "I think we should sit down and resolve the matter with mutual understanding", he maintained.

When asked whether TNFJ has decided to quit the PDA, the TNFJ chief said, "We are very much part of the PDA and have no intentions of quitting it.

He, however, termed the holding of this meeting for Tehrik-i- Nifaz-i-Shari'at [movement for implementation of Islamic law] as the most significant step.

JI Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the forum would be issue oriented and all the problems would be resolved through mutual consultations.

Meanwhile, the forum has constituted a three member committee consisting of Allama Sajid Naqvi, Prof. Khurshid Ahmed and Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi to review the proposed shari'a bill. The committee will present its report on April 1 when the forum members would meet again to decide the modalities about pressing the government to present the bill in the House as a "government bill."

Significantly all the religious leaders and Ulema of various sects offered their prayers together at the residence of Maulana Niazi (Zohar) [noon] and at Islamabad Hotel (Maghrab) [evening].

Talks Between Ruling Party, Bhutto's PDA Held

BK0104054091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] A three-hour session of formal talks between leaders of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] and the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] was held in Islamabad yesterday. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, they decided to continue talks between the opposition and the ruling party. The next round of talks will be held tomorrow. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, presided over the talks. Talking to newsmen, he said the talks were held in a congenial atmosphere in which opposition leader Ms. Bhutto's three-point agenda was discussed in detail.

Zardari Denied Permission To Attend House Session

BK0104115191 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Karachi, March 31—The Special Court for suppression of terrorist activities comprising Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah on Sunday [31 March] dismissed an application moved on behalf of Asif Ali Zardari MNA [member of National Assembly], seeking permission for him to attend the national Assembly session which is to start from Monday.

Rejecting the application the court observed that since the High Court has directed the special court number two trying the case against the applicant in the G.H.

Unnar case of kidnapping, to decide the same in two months. Therefore, the case has to proceed on a day to day basis.

Denationalization of 45 Industries Recommended

BK0104163291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The deregulation and disinvestment committee set up by the government has recommended denationalization of 45 industrial units in the country. This information was given by the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, to the National Assembly during question hour today. He said the government has received 41 applications for setting up of private banks. These are being scrutinized by a special committee headed by the State Bank governor. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Delegation Completes Visit to Poland

BK0104045891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] A Pakistani parliamentary delegation has completed its six-day official visit to Poland. Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokar, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, who led the delegation, has expressed full satisfaction over the outcome of the visit. He said his talks with the Polish leaders will help strengthen economic and political relations between the two countries.

Sri Lanka

14 Killed in East, Curfew Imposed in North

BK0104135891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Colombo, April 1 (AFP)—Security forces Monday placed large areas of northern Sri Lanka under curfew as violence in the east killed 14 more people, including seven Tamil civilians, military officials here said.

A military spokesman said indefinite curfews were imposed in Vavuniya district and the neighbouring Mannar district where troops killed at least 100 guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Saturday.

The curfews came after fierce battles in the region over the weekend left at least 142 people dead and dozens wounded, the spokesman said.

"The curfew is to help troops carry out their follow-up operations against pockets of LTTE resistance in the area. We have not received any details of the operations today (Monday)," the spokesman said.

Government casualties from a close range firefight in the Veepankulam area of Mannar district were put at 25 soldiers killed and 38 wounded, the spokesman said.

"About 50 to 60 LTTE men were killed in the ground attack alone. They took their dead in trucks and tractors. We used helicopters in some places to give cover to ground troops," the military spokesman said.

Unidentified men killed seven Tamil civilians in Iruthiyapuram in Eastern Batticaloa hours after a policeman was killed by LTTE guerrillas in the same area Sunday, the spokesman said, adding he did not know if the incidents were related.

Tamil sources said the men used swords and knives to hack to death the seven civilians and that six other civilians who had been seriously injured in the attack were taken to Batticaloa Hospital.

Meanwhile security forces Monday ambushed and killed seven more LTTE rebels elsewhere in Batticaloa where renewed fighting first erupted in June between the Tigers and troops after 14 months of peace talks broke down.

Since then more than 6,190 people have died in bitter fighting in the Tamil-dominated northeast where the LTTE wants to set up a separate nation called Eelam for the country's two million Tamils.

In other developments, Army troops Sunday destroyed two LTTE bunkers at Kayts Islet in northern Jaffna peninsula killing seven militants and wounding 17, the military spokesman said.

He said heavily armed soldiers stormed the bunkers as part of an ongoing offensive against the LTTE in Jaffna peninsula where nine more rebels died in separate weekend encounters.